

College of Business and Social Sciences

Information For Incoming Postgraduate Exchange Students 2024/25



UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
2020
Guardian



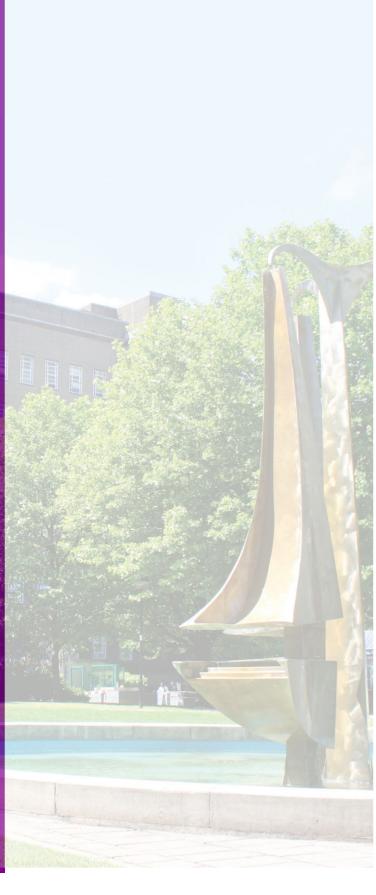






Contents

Academic Information		
3	Contact Details and Information	
4	Key Dates 2024/25	
6	Entry Requirements	
7	Nominations & Applications	
9	Module Selection: 1 or 2 Term	
10	Course Selection: Double Degrees	
111	The Aston Global Advantage (MSc Double Degree)	
12	Credits, Study Methods & Grading	
Pract	tical Information	
13	On-Campus Accommodation	
14	Private Accommodation	
15	Visas and Insurance	
16	University Services	
17	University Facilities	
18	Campus Map	
19	Exploring Birmingham	



Contact Details and Information

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Full Name of Institution: Aston University

Department: College of Business and Social Sciences

Address: Aston University

Aston Triangle

Birmingham

United Kingdom

B4 7ET

www.aston.ac.uk

KEY CONTACTS

Incoming Student Queries and Nominations

Nicole Ryan & Rocky Thompson (Student Development Officer)

Elsa Zenatti-Daniels (Postgraduate Development Lead)

abs_exchange@aston.ac.uk

+44 121 204 5454

Exchange Admission Team:

admission exchange@aston.ac.uk

Partnerships and Exchange Agreements

Selena Teeling (International Relations Manager)

Teelings@aston.ac.uk

USEFUL LINKS

Incoming Exchange Students | Aston University







@AstonUniversity

@AstonUniversity

Aston University

Key Dates 2024/25

The Postgraduate Programme's Academic Calendar for 2024/25 is currently as follows (please note there may be changes to these dates):

SEPTEMBER START:

TEACHING PERIOD 1		
Induction Week (compulsory)	16th September—20th September 2024	
Teaching	23rd September— 6th December 2024	
Assessments (Compulsory) Exams & Coursework	9th December 2024—13th December 2024	
Christmas Holidays	16th December 2024—3rd January 2025	

TEACHING PERIOD 2		
Induction Week (compulsory for students starting in January)	6th January—10th January 2025	
Teaching continues for Sept cohort	13th January—21st March 2025	
Assessments (Compulsary) Exams & Coursework	24th March —28th March 2025	

TEACHING PERIOD 3 & 4 DOUBLE DEGREE STUDENTS ONLY)		
Engagement Workshops April – July 2025		
AGA Streams	April – September 2025	
Re-sit Week	18th August —22nd August 2025	
Dissertation write up	2 nd June – 30 th September 2025	
Dissertation Submission date:	30 th September 2025	

Key Dates 2024/25

JANUARY START: (FOR 1 & 2 TERMS AND DOUBLE DEGREE STUDENTS)

TEACHING PERIOD 1		
Induction Week (compulsory)	6th January—10th January 2025	
Teaching	13th January—21st March 2025	
Assessments (Compulsory) Exams & Coursework	24th March— 28th March 2025	

TEACHING PERIOD 2		
Easter Holidays	31st March —23rd April 2025	
Teaching	23rd April— 27th June 2025	
Assessments (Compulsory) Exams & Coursework	30th June — 4th July 2025	

TEACHING PERIOD 3 & 4 (DOUBLE DEGREE STUDENTS ONLY)		
Engagement Workshops	July – September 2025	
AGA Streams	July/August – January 2026	
Re-sit Week	8th December — 12th December 2025	
Dissertation write up	25 th August – 26 th January 2026	
Dissertation Submission date	26 th January 2026	

DATES FOR RELEASE OF RESULTS

The release of provisional & confirmed results will be made available in the following term after your period of study. Please note that the release of results are currently indicative only (they will be set over the summer).

Term 1 Exchange: Provisional non-confirmed marks will be available to students approximately 20 working days after exam/coursework submission. Confirmed results and official transcripts will be released in early June 2025.

Term 2 Exchange: Provisional non-confirmed marks will be available to students approximately 20 working days after exam/coursework submission. Confirmed results and official transcripts will be released in late June 2025. A very few modules have coursework submission deadlines which are too late for the release of results as shown above. Please be careful when making your module choices if the date by which your results are inflexible.

2 Terms Exchange (September start): official transcripts will be available in June 2025

Double Degree students: Transcripts for the taught programme only will be available in June 2025. Confirmation of award and full official transcript including Master Dissertation results will be released in December 2025. They cannot be made available before that date.

Entry Requirements

1 OR 2 TERM EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Academic results (copy of Bachelor / Master degrees' transcripts will be required): A minimum overall GPA of 13/20 (or equivalent)

AND

One of the following English tests dated no later than September 2022: We accept a wide range of English language qualifications including:

- IELTS Academic Minimum overall score of 6.5 with 1 band at 5.5 as a minimum. Other bands at 6.0 and above
- TOEFL Minimum overall score of 93 with no less than 23 in writing, 19 in speaking and listening and 18 in reading
- PTE Academic Minimum overall score of 58 with 1 band at 42 as a minimum and other bands at 50 and above
- TOEFL iBT Home Edition
- Password
- Duolingo English Test Minimum overall score of 110 with a minimum of 85 in each ub-score.

1 OR 2 TERM EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Overseas students wishing to join Aston for 1 or 2 terms and will be traveling with a Visitor Visa or Student Route Visa can either submit English test results as indicated above or will be able to use a letter from their school confirming that their level of English is equivalent to level C1 of the CEFR and sufficient to meet the demands of an English-taught Masters programme. Please speak with your mobility coordinator who will be able to provide you with further details on how to obtain a letter.

Nominations and Applications

DEADLINES

Teaching Peri	od 1/Full Year	Teaching	Period 2
Nominations	15th June 2024	Nominations	1st October 2024
Applications	5th July 2024	Applications	20th October 2024

NOMINATING A STUDENT TO ASTON (PARTNER SCHOOLS)

To nominate a student, please use our MoveOn nomination portal:

https://aston.moveon4.com/locallogin/5b62e1793e5d66562eb5c4e4/eng

If you do not already have a login, please register using the right hand panel.

To complete a nomination, click 'Start a new application', read the information page and enter the nomination section. Complete the following areas for each individual student:

- Personal information (ensure names are spelt exactly as on their passports)
- Sending institution and study details

Please then click submit and a PDF will be generated. We will then contact the student/s directly with links to complete an application form.

COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION (STUDENTS)

Once you have been nominated by your home institution, you will receive a link to our online application form. Please complete it carefully and submit by the deadline above.

Admission requirements:

- Nomination from our partner school
- Transcript of results from your home university translated into English
- An official English Language test certificate or a letter from your school confirming your English ability meets our requirements (this requirement does not apply to native English speakers).
- A clear, high quality scan of your passport

Without these documents we will not be able to accept your application.

During the admission/application process your contact will be the Exchange admission team: admission_exchange@aston.ac.uk

Confirmation of a place: Once your application has been checked you will be emailed your official offer letter which will confirm your place, and let you know how to apply for accommodation.

Application Procedures

PLEASE NOTE: You must check with your school that you have been officially nominated. Online forms received without prior nomination will not be processed.

Application Form: You will need to apply by clicking on the link next to the relevant programme.

1 & 2 TERMS

ABS Master Exchange Programme – 1 Term (September 2024 start) Apply Here

ABS Master Exchange Programme – 2 Terms (September start) Apply Here

ABS Master Exchange Programme – 1 term (January 2025 start) Apply Here

ABS Master Exchange Programme – 2 Terms (January 2025 start) Apply Here

When creating your new account please ensure that you provide us with a valid and accurate email address as most of the correspondence from Aston will be sent via email. You will be automatically logged in after this and be able to start your application immediately.

DOUBLE DEGREE

If you would like to join one of our MSc Double Degree Programmes, you will find the application links for these on page 10 next to the specific programme. You can also view more information about the Programme by clicking on the degree name.

When applying for the Double Degree you will be required to upload the following documents:

- Your CV
- A copy of your Bachelor degree certificate
- An officially translated transcript of all results from your Bachelor degree (students from French Grandes Ecoles should provide the transcripts for both years of classes preparatoires)
- An officially translated transcript of results to date from your Masters degree
- Two references, at least one of which is from an academic referee (applicants without work experience may submit two academic references)
- Proof of English language proficiency (refer to the Entry Requirements Table)

MSc Module Selection: 1 or 2 Term

ABS MASTER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Exchange students joining Aston for one or two terms, either in Term 1 (September to January) or Term 2 (January to March) will be enrolled on the ABS Master Exchange Programme.

The number of modules that can be selected must be agreed in advance with the home institution but students must register for at least two modules. The number of ECTS credit load for each module can vary but students will be able to study up to four modules which will represent a MAXIMUM of 60 Aston credits (30 ECTS credits) per academic term. This will determine the total number of courses that can be selected. In some circumstances we may exceptionally allow students to study up to five modules if required by the home institution.

Please note: some electives will assume knowledge of topics covered in other modules. If these pre-requisites have not already been studied, students will not be able to register for that module. Information on pre-requisites can be found in the Module Outlines. If any of the modules selected have pre-requisites, students will need to note this on the "Module Choice / Evidence of Prior Learning" form and attach evidence of prior learning. This form must be signed and stamped by the home institution.

REGISTERING FOR MODULES

A Module Choice Form listing available modules and their scheduled running will be made available before the start of each academic year. The provisional teaching schedule will be made available in Autumn and the definitive teaching schedule as soon as possible. We will endeavor to publish provisional module choices for Term 1 (September to December) as soon as they become available.

Students will need to complete the form indicating their selection, and if appropriate providing evidence of prior learning. The form will need to be signed and stamped by the home institution and sent back to abs_exchange@aston.ac.uk before the start of term.



The Aston Global Advantage—MSc Double Degree

MSC DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Aston Business School Postgraduate Programme currently offers a wide variety of specialised master's degrees. Students seeking the Double Degree on the Aston Business School MSc Programme must follow the prescribed syllabus of their chosen course and cannot substitute modules from other courses. All courses run over 12 months. The dissertation is included as a 'module'.

*Students seeking to enroll on MSc Investment Analysis will have to provide additional documentary evidence to demonstrate a high level of quantitative skills (e.g. transcripts from classes préparatoires) as well as a background in economics.

MSc Accounting & Finance:

September Start 2024: Apply Here

MSc Business Analytics

September Start 2024: Apply Here

January Start 2025: Apply Here

MSc Business & Management

September Start 2024: Apply Here

January Start 2025: Apply Here

MSc Business Psychology

September Start 2024: Apply Here

MSc Crisis & Disaster Management

September Start 2024: Apply Here

MSc Economics

September Start 2024: Apply Here

MSc Entrepreneurship

September Start 2024: Apply Here

MSc Finance

September Start 2024: Apply Here

MSc Information Systems & Business

<u>Analysis</u>

September Start 2024: Apply Here

January Start 2025: Apply Here

MSc International Business

September Start-2024: Apply Here

January Start 2025: Apply Here

MSc Investment Analysis:

September Start 2024: Apply Here

January Start 2025: Apply Here

MSc Human Resources Management:

September Start 2024: Apply Here

January Start 2025: Apply Here

MSc Sustainable Business Operations

September Start 2024: Apply Here

MSc Strategy & International Business

September Start 2024: Apply Here

MSc Strategic Marketing Management

September Start 2024: Apply Here

January Start 2025: Apply Here

MSc Strategic Digital Marketing

September Start 2024: Apply Here

January Start 2025: Apply Here

The Aston Global Advantage—MSc Double Degree

THE ASTON GLOBAL ADVANTAGE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Business skills for life: the essential Aston Global Advantage Programme.

The Aston Global Advantage Professional Development Programme (PDP) is an integrated module that forms part of your MSc taught course from day one. This compulsory module runs throughout the academic year. We have designed it around knowledge through practice - to enhance your employability as you customise the PDP experience to suit your own learning goals and skills development needs.

We take a multidimensional, qualitative and individually tailored approach. Using reflective models, we integrate a competency-based framework into our existing academic Programmes. You will engage with different kinds of experiential learning, such as skills workshops, workbased experience, business simulations and study abroad and develop your own unique skillset. This pathway between theory and the world of work brings together Aston's faculty, careers practitioners and business and academic partnerships teams to help you step into your future careers as culturally aware, global professionals.



Ruth Kanu-

"I'm not sure I would be where I am today if it wasn't for this professional development programme."

https://www.aston.ac.uk/bss/aston-business-school/abs-student-experience/aston-global-advantage

CAREER AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Employability is at the very heart of what we do at Aston. During your time on one of our Programmes you will receive dedicated support to enable you to find global employment opportunities. You will develop the skills needed to gain the right role for you and to make an impact from day one.

We provide a range of activities to support your career and personal development as well as individual guidance and one-to-one support for career planning and job applications.

We also collaborate closely with employers and work experience providers to source opportunities and match them to our postgraduate students.

Aston University's Careers Service is available to all students, and offers careers guidance, support in creating CV's, completing application forms and preparing for interviews. Once enrolled, all students are able to access Aston Futures, an extensive database of work placements and graduate opportunities in the UK and overseas.

JobShop, part of Aston Students' Union, advertises reliable part -time work exclusively for Aston students to combine your academic career with paid employment. Please be aware that the University's policy is for students to work no more than 20- hours per week during term time.

Credits, Study Methods & Grading System

CREDITS

ECTS Credits describe the student workload required to complete course units. They reflect the quantity of work each course unit requires in relation to the total quantity of work necessary to complete a full academic year, and therefore they are a relative rather than an absolute measure. Please refer to the module outlines for details of the ECTS credit values allocated for each module and the dissertation for a specific Masters course.

Please note that although partners should use the ECTS credit rating to work out the workload of their students at Aston, they should NOT use ECTS grades. The Aston local results are far more representative of students' performance at Aston.

CONTACT HOURS & ASSESSMENT

Most modules consist of ten weeks of study, including a revision week, with a total of three hours of lectures/seminars/workshops etc. per week. All modules are assessed either by a 2-hour or 3-hour examination and/or by the submission of coursework.

The weekly sessions give students a minimum weekly time-tabling commitment of 12-15 hours which take place between 9.00am and 9.00pm. Including further reading, preparation of coursework, group work and development of presentations each module is likely to require another 30 or more hours a week.

All coursework is submitted online.

When making your module selections please be aware that some may contain written assessments (coursework) which are due to be submitted after the official end of term. You can view the submission deadlines on each module outline.

DISSERTATION (DOUBLE DEGREE STUDENTS ONLY)

All MSc Programmes include a dissertation which forms a substantial element of the course both in terms of workload and assessment weighting. The dissertation (guideline 10-20,000 words depending on MSc programme) is undertaken from the end of the second term and is submitted in mid-September. However, work will begin during the first and second terms, when a topic for the dissertation is identified, an academic supervisor is allocated, a work plan and dissertation summary/proposal are produced and an ethical approval for the proposed research is obtained in conjunction with the dissertation supervisor.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grade		Mark
A+	=	75% +
А	=	70 – 74%
B+	=	65 – 69%
В	=	60 – 64%
C+	=	55 – 59%
С	=	50 – 54%
F	=	Less than 50%

Please note that students studying 1 & 2 terms require 50% as a pass rate.

Students on the double-degree may be allowed to pass up to two modules with a mark of 45% or above depending on the regulations for their course.

On-Campus Accommodation

FULL YEAR STUDENTS

Aston University guarantees accommodation in the Aston Student Village (ASV) to the first 40 full-year Erasmus and Exchange applicants fulfilling the criteria:

- You have applied to Aston as a full-year student by 14th June 2024.
- Aston has confirmed your application by 28th June 2024.
- You have applied for accommodation by 21st July 2024.

Full time Exchange and Erasmus applicants may choose a 44-week tenancy only. Further details can be found at www.aston.ac.uk/accommodation.



ONE OR TWO TERM STUDENTS



Aston University guarantees accommodation in the Aston Student Village (ASV) to the first 25 part-year Erasmus and Exchange applicants starting in September fulfilling the criteria:

- You have applied to Aston as a part-year student by 14th June 2024.
- Aston has confirmed your application by 28th June 2024.
- You have applied for accommodation by 21st July 2024.

These 25 rooms will be available to TP2 students in January. Further details can be found at www.aston.ac.uk/accommodation.

The rooms in the ASV are available on a **first-come**, **first-served basis** so please apply as soon as possible if you are interested. Unsuccessful applicants will not be able to be housed on campus.

This information is correct as of 19/03/2024 but may be subject to change.

Private Accommodation

Aston Student Homes



The Aston Students' Union (SU) operates **Aston Student Homes** (ASH) to support students looking for privately rented accommodation in Birmingham.

ASH checks and maintains copies of safety certificates and licenses provided by landlords advertising on the platform so that you can have confidence in the property you are renting.

Find out more at <u>www.astonstudenthomes.org</u> or contact the team at:

astonstudenthomes@aston.ac.uk.

General Advice

Birmingham has a wide range of accommodation for students in the city centre. There is also plenty of affordable accommodation outside the city that is well connected by bus, tram, and rail links.

You can find out more information about some of the public transport services available in Birmingham and a journey planner <u>here.</u>

ASH recommends that students search for accommodation in advance of arriving, but does not recommend signing any contracts until you have viewed the property for yourself.

Because of this, it is advised that you arrive in the UK early to view properties and make these arrangements in person. Please note, it is against the Law in the UK for an accommodation agency to take fees in advance from prospective tenants in return for details of properties.

For tips on how to avoid rental scams please check out Action Fraud: Rental Scams.

It is your responsibility to secure accommodation and find out what options are available to you.

Accommodation Types Explained:

- Private student halls—similar to university accommodation but run by commercial companies.
- Shared houses sharing a house with other students in Birmingham.
- Private apartment or house—living on your own in Birmingham and the surrounding areas.

General Advice for Private Accommodation

Council Tax:

Please note that if you secure private accommodation, you may be required to pay Council Tax.

Council Tax is a charge set by local authorities to pay for the local services that they provide, for example rubbish collection, the Police and Fire Service. Council Tax is based on the value of the property and the amount payable for the property can be affected by who lives in it.

Generally, full-time students within Birmingham **do not** have to pay Council Tax if they are studying a course that is for **longer than 24 weeks** per year.

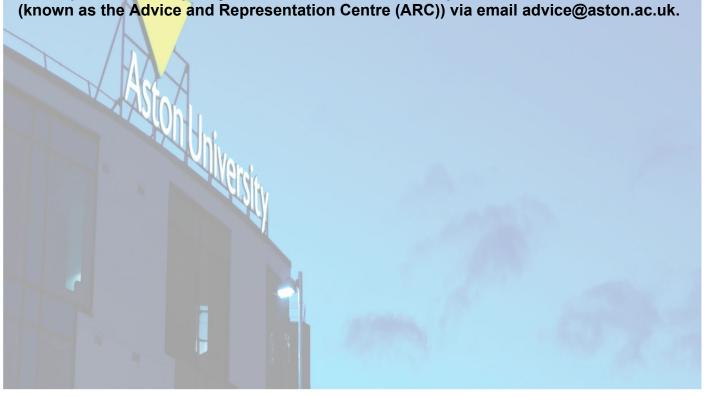
If you are studying a course that is for <u>less than 24 weeks</u>, you are technically <u>liable to pay</u> Council Tax, but local authorities I.E. Birmingham City Council will consider exemption requests on a case-by-case basis.

You can find more information about council tax here.

If you are thinking of making a request for Council Tax exemption, please consult the International Advice Team at astoninternational@aston.ac.uk for advice.

If you are deemed not to be exempt, then you must pay the Council Tax due.

If you have issues with accommodation or housing rights, whether you are living on-campus or off-campus, you can contact the SU's independent student advice service (known as the Advice and Representation Centre (ARC)) via email advice@aston.ac.uk.



Visas & Insurance

Visas & Travel Documents

You will need a passport that is valid for the **entire duration** of your studies at Aston, including the exam periods. If you do not already have a passport, or if you need to renew it before travelling, please apply for it as soon as you receive your offer letter from us to ensure it has arrived before you are due to travel.

Full Academic Year Exchange

Most students will require a student visa to study in the UK for a full academic year, including EU and EEA nationals. Information about Student visas can be found on our website here.

One Semester Exchange

Most exchange students joining Aston for one semester (up to 6 months) will need visitor immigration permission for the UK, including EU and EEA nationals (excluding Ireland), but not everyone needs to apply for this before they travel. EU nationals, EEA nationals and certain other nationalities can obtain visitor immigration permission at the UK border. You can find information about applying for a visitor visa for short periods of study in the UK on our website here:

Please be aware that Visitor immigration permission cannot be extended nor issued consecutively, so be sure about your total length of exchange before proceeding. You also will not be allowed to work in the UK and you will only have access to certain emergency healthcare for free and should ensure that you have sufficient health insurance in place. If you accept an offer to study with us, our team of qualified International Student Advisers will be able to advise you on a range of visa and immigration issues, and help you to apply for the appropriate visa. This is a free service, and the team can be contacted at astoninternational@aston.ac.uk.

Health Care & Insurance

Students entering the UK with a Student Visa will need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as part of their visa application. Students coming for less than six months are not required to pay this, but this does mean that you will be liable to pay for certain healthcare services, such as hospital aftercare, if you require this during your stay in the UK.

There are no fees for Accident & Emergency Services and you do not need to have paid the IHS to access them <u>BUT</u> you should only use the Accident & Emergency Department at hospitals for emergency treatment for serious illness or injury.

We strongly advise students to arrange private health insurance to cover medical costs should you require healthcare during your stay in the UK.

Information about the healthcare system in the UK, including how to register with a doctor, accessing a dentist and more, can be found here;

Please ensure that you are looking at the information for England.

University Services

SUPPORT TEAMS

Aston University provides a range of services offering outstanding support in a friendly, welcoming environment to assist with both academic and personal issues. Every student is assigned a personal tutor, and further assistance is available from the College Office, the student Hub, and the Students' Union.

We also offer a free Counselling and Wellbeing service, a multifaith Chaplaincy, have a dedicated Enabling Team to support disabled students, and offer a peer mentoring service.

More information about the student support services we offer can be found at https://www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/support-services/the-hub



WELLBEING MAP



University Facilities

LIBRARY



The Library provides free access to thousands of books, eBooks, journals, articles and more. There are dedicated study spaces, workshops, and printing facilities.

Every school has a dedicated Specialist to offer specialised subject advice to help with your studies.

SPORT ASTON

Aston University students have excellent sports facilities right on their doorstep! Whether you want to train, compete, keep fit or just have fun with friends, there's a great range of opportunities. All facilities are staffed by trained first-aiders and lifeguards.



STUDENTS' UNION



The Students' Union building includes a student kitchen, pool tables and games consoles, relaxation spaces, a dedicated prayer room, and more!

The SU also offer over 130 clubs and societies for Aston students to join, including a Women in Business society, faith based societies, and a huge variety of sport and hobby clubs.

The SU also offers the Advice and Representation Centre (ARC) to all students, offering confidential, free support on a variety of academic and personal issues.

Aston's 'Student Voice' ensures your opinions are heard. Student Reps for each course work with academic and support staff to make your classes the best they can be.



Campus map

Aston University buildings

- 1 Main Building and reception
- 2 South Wing (Main Building)
- 3 North Wing (Main Building)
- 4 Students' Union
- 5 Aston Business School and Conference Centre
- 6 Aston Library
- 7 Aston University Day Hospital
 - -Optegra
 - -BCH Cochlear
 - -Life & Health Sciences
- 8 Aston Brain Centre
- 9 Vision Sciences
 - -Aston Eye Clinic and Aston Optometry School
 - -Aston Medical School
 - -Audiology department and Audiology clinics
- 10 Sir Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre and pool
- 11 Gosta Green five-a-side sports pitch
- 12 Sports pitch
- 13 Aston University Nursery and Pre-school
- 14 Energy & Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI)
- 15 Martin Luther King Multi-Faith Centre
- 16 Aston University Engineering Academy

Student accomodation

- 17 Residences reception
- 18 Harriet Martineau Residences
- 19 Mary Sturge Residences
- 20 James Watt Residences
- 21 William Murdoch Residences
- 22 Lakeside Residences

Campus car parking

- 23 Car Park 1
- 24 Car Park 2
- 25 Car Park 3 (unloading)
- 26 Car Park 4
- 27 Car Park 5 (accessed from Holt St)
- 28 Car Park 7 (permit holders only)
- 29 Car Park 6 (evenings and weekends)
- 30 Car Park 12 (underground car park)
- 31 Car Park (Millennium Point pay parking)

Other buildings

- 32 Sacks of Potatoes pub
- 33 Gosta Green pub
- 34 Innovation Birmingham Campus
- 35 Birmingham City Council offices
- 36 The Eastside Rooms
- 37 Birmingham Metropolitan College
- 38 The Old Fire Station
- 39 Shops on campus
 - Tesco Express
 - Costa Coffee
 - Ryman Stationery
 - Greggs
 - Wok & Go





Want to explore Bisming fam but don't know where to start?

scan me:

