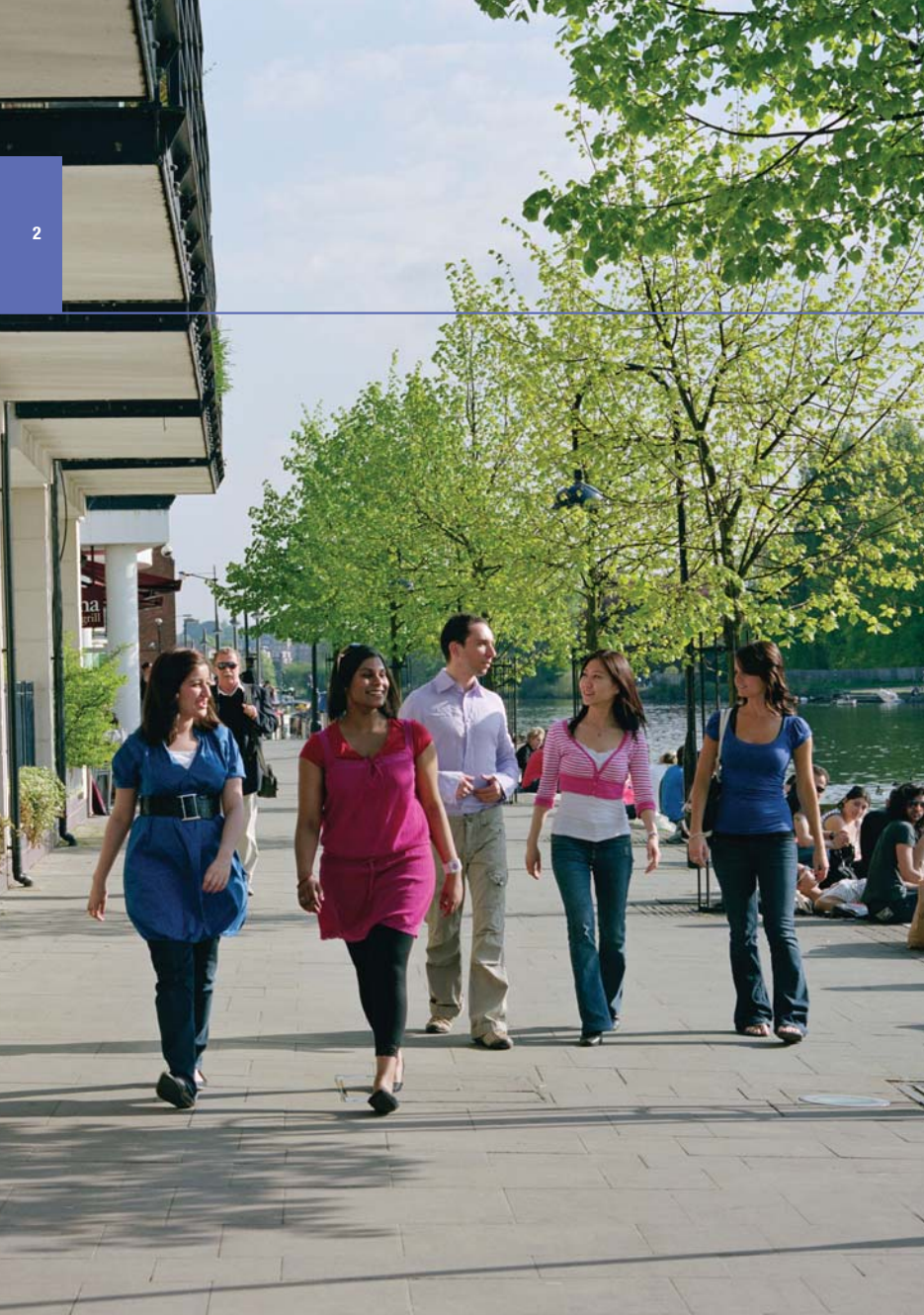


North American Student Guide



Kingston University London



Welcome

Kingston University offers internationally recognised qualifications and a supportive community in London, one of the world's most exciting capitals.

Based in an attractive riverside area in south-west London, Kingston University is known for its career-focused courses and excellent teaching quality.

Students from all over the world have achieved success at Kingston University. We would be delighted to welcome you to the University and help you fulfill your ambitions.

Wide range of courses

At Kingston University we offer a wide range of courses that are popular with North American students, including:

- Architecture
- Biology
- Business
- Creative Writing
- Economics
- Environmental Science
- Fashion
- Film
- Finance
- Graphic Design
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Law
- Marketing
- Photography
- Psychology

To find out more, visit
www.kingston.ac.uk/courses

What the newspapers say:

"[Kingston's] record on teaching quality puts it in the vanguard of the modern university sector and is a match for many older institutions." *The Sunday Times 2008*

What our students say:

Karisa Lundberg, American
Film and Television Studies BA(Hons)

"I have always wanted to live in the UK and the undergraduate degree offered me an amazing opportunity to study what I love, but in a reasonable three years. When choosing Kingston, I loved how close it was to central London and all the amazing resources that would be available to me."

Why study at a UK university?

UK university degrees are very popular with North American students, as they are not only of the highest standard and recognised around the world, but also great value for money, with undergraduate degrees generally only three years in duration (four years in Scotland) and masters degrees just one year.

UK degrees typically focus closely on a particular subject area, with fewer general education classes and electives than their American equivalents. This means you can complete your degree in a shorter amount of time, save money by paying one year's less tuition and get to experience living in a foreign country and travel around Europe!

What are the advantages of doing a degree in the UK?

- Three-year undergraduate degrees / one-year masters degrees
- Financial aid and scholarships are available
- No GRE exam required for graduate study
- Gain experience living abroad
- Work part time on or off campus while studying
- After graduation you can apply to work full time in the UK for up to two years

What our students say:

Brittany Thurman, American Drama BA(Hons)

"I wanted to experience living away from home and gain independence. I always longed to visit London, and I viewed studying in London as my chance to see the world."

Did you know?

All international students graduating from a UK university can apply to stay in the UK to work for two years after finishing their studies.



Why choose Kingston University?

Kingston University is a large, modern university, which is very popular with North American students. It is located in Kingston upon Thames, a lively suburb of London, which is close to the big attractions but less expensive than central London. Kingston has great facilities with its 22,000 students spread comfortably over four campuses.

Close to central London

Kingston upon Thames is a leafy riverside town in south-west London, only 25 minutes by train from the hustle and bustle of central London.

Lively town centre

Kingston combines a rich history with the best of contemporary culture, including a lively music scene, great shopping, lots of cafes, bars and restaurants, a cinema and sports centres.

International scholarships

Kingston University awards, in total, over £250,000 worth of scholarships every year to international students from around 30 different countries. Each scholarship is worth £3,300 per year of study. We are one of just a few UK universities that allow North American students to apply for an international scholarship.

Welcome & Orientation Program

Kingston University offers a comprehensive orientation program for all new international students, which includes a Social for new North American students where you can meet and get to know each other. You can find more information in the International Student Guide.

Did you know?

Kingston University has 22,782 students, 10 per cent of whom are international students, from over 151 countries worldwide. There are currently 92 American and 32 Canadian students studying here. In addition, each year over 150 North American students participate in our Study Abroad and Summer School programs.



Newsletter

Twice a semester we produce a newsletter dedicated to our North American students, including student essays, a birthday list, event photos and fun competitions with prizes.

'Understanding Britain' short course

This six-week course introduces you to British life and culture and is very popular with North American students. It is a great place to make friends and an opportunity to visit fascinating historic sites such as Hampton Court Palace, Oxford University and the Houses of Parliament with your class. The course does not award credits and there are no examinations.

What our students say:

Elise Harris, Canadian
LLB Law

"I have found living in Kingston upon Thames comfortable and enjoyable. With picturesque scenery, good shopping and a vast array of amenities, I can find everything I would expect in a big city all in one place."

Thanksgiving

Kingston University celebrates the American holiday in the traditional way on campus. This event is free and all students from North America are invited. Kingston provides the turkey and potatoes and students are encouraged to bring their favourite side dish.

Further information

International scholarships:
www.kingston.ac.uk/internationalscholarships

Understanding Britain:
www.kingston.ac.uk/understandingbritain

Welcome & Orientation:
www.kingston.ac.uk/internationalorientation

Information for applicants

What are the entry requirements?

American students

Undergraduate

- High school GPA of 3.0
- SAT scores of 550+ in each of the three components
- Two or three AP courses with a score of 3+ or higher

Graduate

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0
- Some courses may require work experience

Canadian students

Undergraduate

- 65–70 per cent in five Grade 12 subjects (depending on province)

Graduate

- Undergraduate GPA of 2.3+ on the Canadian 4.0 scale
- Some courses may require work experience

How do I apply?

Undergraduate

- All applications are made online through an external body called UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Visit www.ucas.ac.uk to start your application.
- You should apply between 1 September 2010 and 30 June 2011 for courses starting in September 2011. Your UCAS application will need to include all academic transcripts and a personal statement. Some courses require submission of a portfolio.

Graduate

- Graduate applications are made directly to the University and can be made online through our website. Simply visit the course page of interest and select 'Apply for this course'.
- There is no deadline for graduate applications, but admission is on a rolling basis and early application is recommended for popular courses.
- Your application will need to include all academic transcripts and a personal statement. Some courses require submission of a portfolio.

What are the fees?

International tuition fees 2010/11*

- Undergraduate: £9,600–£10,650
- Postgraduate taught: £9,600–£14,000
- MBA: £18,000

Accommodation fees**

Halls of residence fees:

- £90.50–£113.50 per week (depending on type of room).

*These fees are for 2010/11 and are to be used as a guide only. They apply to students who are classified as 'overseas' fee paying. Visit the course webpages for the exact price.

**Please note that these costs are per room and are based on prices for 2009/10 academic year.

Further information

Entry requirements for students from the USA:
www.kingston.ac.uk/northamerica

Entry requirements for students from Canada:
www.kingston.ac.uk/canada

Tuition fees: www.kingston.ac.uk/fees

Accommodation:
www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation



What happens after I apply?

Although there is no formal deadline for masters degrees, and you can apply for undergraduate courses up until the end of June before the September you want to start study, we strongly advise that you apply earlier, ideally in January. Not only will this maximise your chances of gaining a place at Kingston, but it will also ensure that you allow enough time for your visa and financial aid applications to go through before you start study.

Receiving an offer

You will typically receive a reply from Kingston University two to six weeks after you apply. Undergraduate applicants will need to track their applications on UCAS. Graduate applicants will be contacted directly by the University.

Offers can be either **conditional** or **unconditional**.

- If your offer is unconditional, you will need to accept it by the stated deadline. Your visa support letter will be issued as soon as you have done this.
- If your offer is conditional, you will need to meet the conditions of the offer as soon as possible (this often relates to final grades and exam scores).

Next steps

If, as we suggest, you make your application in January, the table (right) outlines a timeline of the steps you will need to take after you submit your application. If you submit your application later than April you might have difficulty obtaining your student visa and student loans in time for the start of the academic year.

Did you know?

In 2009, we received over 33,786 undergraduate applications, more than any other London university and the 16th highest figure nationally (source: UCAS).

Time	Step	Description
March	US applicants: apply for the FASFA online	US applicants: Enter Kingston's financial aid code 010816 and complete the FAFSA application. Please contact the University's Financial Aid Office (see p18) for instructions on how to receive your student loan abroad.
May	Submit any final grades	If you have a conditional offer, you need to submit your academic transcript as soon as your final grades are available.
	Receive visa support letter	Provided you have firmly accepted your offer, you will receive your visa support letter.
	Apply for an international scholarship	The application deadline is 31 May for both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Applications are made online.
July	Apply for University accommodation	We recommend that you apply early for University accommodation as spaces fill up quickly. If you want to live in private accommodation, our Accommodation Office can provide you with details of privately rented flats in the local area where other Kingston students live.
	Complete your financial aid application	Following recent changes to US financial aid procedures, you will not be able to complete your student loan requests with Kingston until July. For the latest information, see www.kingston.ac.uk/usfinancialaid
August	Apply for your student visa	Once you have received both your unconditional offer letter and visa support letter you can start the visa application process.
	Receive Welcome & Orientation Guide	Detailed information about the Welcome & Orientation events and services on offer (including the appropriate arrival dates) will be sent to you either by post or email.
	Book your flight	Do not book your flight until: 1. You receive your student visa (there may be delays) 2. You receive the recommended arrival dates for Orientation
September	Arrive in UK	The Welcome & Orientation program, which includes the free airport pickup service, is scheduled two weeks before the start of classes.
October	Classes start	Teaching normally starts during the first week of October.

Note: The information outlined in the table above is intended as a guide and the timescales may differ from person to person.

This information is specifically for students from the USA and Canada to help you prepare for your studies in London at Kingston University.

Additional information about topics such as immigration, orientation, campus information, academic support and career services can be found in the International Student Guide.

Undergraduate FAQs

Can I have a major and a minor?

Yes, these are called joint honours degrees in the UK. However, as a result of the shorter length of UK degrees, you do not have unlimited flexibility to combine subjects – the combination must pre-exist. For more information on the combinations we offer, visit: www.kingston.ac.uk/joinhonours

Can I change my major after I apply?

Students in the UK apply for a specific degree, and unlike in the USA and Canada, don't make a general application to the university. So, if you decide you want to study a different subject you may need to re-apply or transfer to another degree.

Can I study abroad as part of my degree?

Most undergraduate degrees at Kingston will allow you to spend a semester or a year of your degree abroad. Depending on your course, you could choose from exchange schemes from across Europe, the USA, Canada, Mexico (subject to final negotiations), New Zealand, Australia, South Korea and Hong Kong. For more information, see www.kingston.ac.uk/kustudyabroad

Can I transfer to Kingston?

Transfer students can be considered for advanced placement onto our degree programs. The University will decide whether to accept your credits and whether the transfer is appropriate. We cannot guarantee that all credits earned will be applied to your Kingston degree.

We suggest that you look at the Year 1 classes for the degree you are interested in. Keep in mind that in the UK there are no general education requirements, so these classes will not transfer – only core subjects can be considered for transfer credits.



If you wish to be considered for advanced placement you will need to select 'Year 2 entry' on your UCAS application and mention your request to transfer in your personal statement. We cannot guarantee entry into Year 2 but the University will consider it.

Can I study Medicine at Kingston?

Kingston does not have a medical school and we do not offer a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree. (If you want to study for the MBBS you can apply to our partner institution, St George's, University of London.) However, Kingston does offer a number of medical-related science courses, such as Medical Biochemistry and Medicinal Chemistry. To find out more, visit www.kingston.ac.uk/undergraduate

Can I study pre-law?

The UK's legal system is very different from those in America and Canada. British students do an undergraduate law degree and do not study pre-law. They therefore qualify with an LLB after three years of undergraduate study.

If you have an undergraduate degree in an area such as pre-law, history or philosophy you will need to complete an LLB before you can do a graduate law degree. Kingston has a two-year conversion course called the 'LLB Senior Status' which is very popular with American and Canadian students.

Graduate FAQs

Are UK postgraduate qualifications recognized in North America?

In the UK there are several types of postgraduate qualifications: certificates, diplomas, and masters degrees. The only qualification that is recognised in the USA is the masters degree, so we recommend that you take this route for any course you choose at Kingston.

Can I study Masters in Law?

The Masters in Law (LLM) is not essential to practice law, but many lawyers in the USA, Canada, and UK are choosing it because it provides further specialist knowledge. Large, international law firms often look for this qualification, and we recommend you consider it if you are planning on working in international law.

Living in London FAQs

When should I apply for my visa?

Provided you can show proof of funds to study in the UK without the need for student loans, you will be able to start the visa application process in around June. If you need to use student loans to show proof of funds, you will not be able to apply for your student visa until your financial aid has been processed by the University's Financial Aid Office, in July.

You can only start your application once you have received your visa support letter from Kingston University. This letter can only be issued once you have received and accepted an unconditional offer from the University. Visa applications can take up to six weeks to be processed by the British Consulates-General.

If you have a conditional offer, you will need to meet the conditions as soon as possible, and then submit the relevant documentation so that your offer can be made unconditional. Conditional offers are often related to final grades, so you need to send these in as soon as you receive them.

Does Kingston have on-campus accommodation?

Yes, Kingston University has several halls of residence (some on campus and others nearby). International students are guaranteed a place in halls during their first year, provided that they apply for accommodation in good time and meet our eligibility criteria.

However, Kingston does not have a separate hall of residence for graduate students, so all halls will have undergraduate students living in them. In the UK, students generally only live in halls of residence in their first year, so the halls are made up of predominantly 18–20 year olds. In some halls of residence, blocks are allocated specifically for mature students but this cannot be guaranteed.

We recommend that graduate students rent a room in a house or flat share with other students of a similar age. Our Accommodation Office (see p18) can help you find a house or flat share in the local area.

We recommend that you stay in a hotel when you arrive for the Welcome and Orientation Program. This will allow you time to arrange viewings and carefully assess your options.



Do I need medical insurance?

If you are studying in the UK for six months or more on a full-time course you are entitled to free healthcare through the NHS (National Healthcare Service).

The service includes access to doctors, emergency services and medical treatment in the UK as well as free birth control tablets. However, some subsidised fees may apply such as overnight hospital visits and prescriptions which are charged at £7.20.

Can I see a doctor while I am in the UK?

Kingston University has an on-campus NHS (National Health Service) doctor, known in the UK as a GP (general practitioner) who you can register with during Orientation. It is important that you register as soon as you arrive. If you fall ill and are not registered it may be difficult to receive treatment.

We recommend that you ask your family doctor write you a note explaining any ongoing medical issues that your doctor in London would need to know about, including a list of prescriptions.

How do I get a job in the UK?

During your studies you can work in the UK, either on or off campus, for up to 20 hours per week when classes are in session, and 40 hours per week during vacations (winter break, spring break and summer break).

The University's Careers and Employability Service offers an online job vacancy resource, called JobShop, which advertises hundreds of graduate-level jobs.

They also offer practical career support, careers workshops and expert advice, including general advice on resume preparation, how to complete application forms and interview techniques.

Can I work in the UK after graduation?

All international students graduating from a UK university can apply to stay in the UK to work for up to two years once they have finished their studies through the Tier 1 Post-study Work Scheme.

To find out more, visit:
www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/working_after.php

Am I able to open a UK bank account?

Most international students can open a 'basic bank account'. A basic bank account allows you to pay money in and take money out. You are normally provided with a bank card to withdraw your money from cash points. Basic bank accounts do not offer any credit, so you will not be given an overdraft facility, chequebook or credit card.

Is it easy to get around London without a car?

London has one of the world's best transportation networks, with buses, trains, the Underground and trams. Kingston upon Thames is well connected, with regular trains to central London taking only 25 minutes.

London is zoned, so ticket prices depend on where you are travelling to. Students in London can get up to a 30 per cent discount on public transportation with the Student Oyster card; you can apply for this card during Orientation or at the Student Union's office.

Can I receive my US financial aid at Kingston?

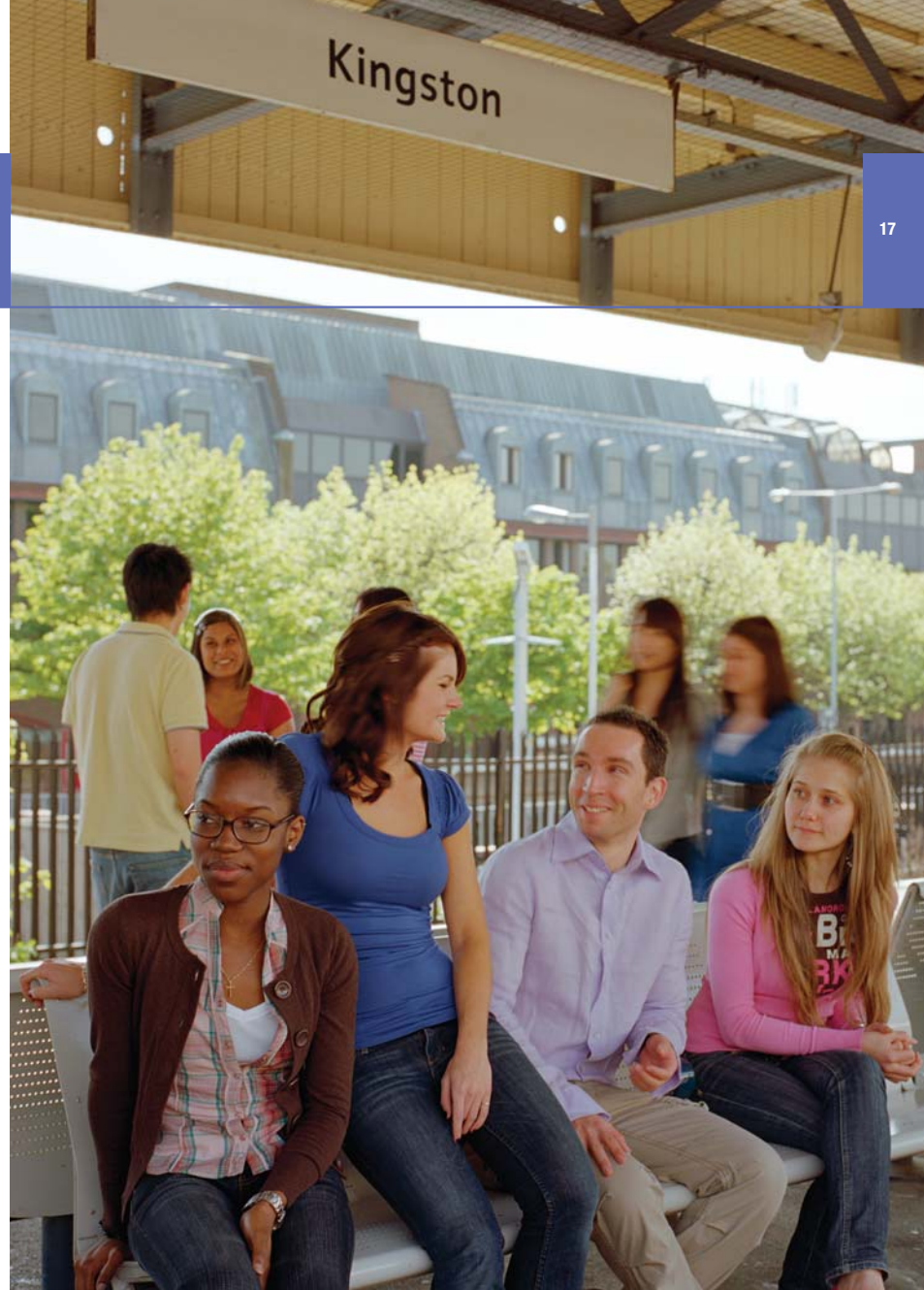
Yes, Kingston is an approved student loan distributor. You will need to make an application through FAFSA and use Kingston's code: 010816

In addition, you will need to contact Kingston University's financial aid office (see p18) to receive your student loan abroad. Kingston will not be notified that you have completed your FAFSA application.

Any application made to Kingston University's financial aid office after May cannot be guaranteed to be processed in time for October disbursement.

Can I apply to Kingston for an international scholarship?

Yes, Kingston University is one of just a few UK universities that allow North American students to apply for an international scholarship. Each scholarship is worth £3,300 per year of study. To find out more, visit www.kingston.ac.uk/internationalscholarships



Useful contacts for American and Canadian students

Applicant Services

E (undergraduate): aps@kingston.ac.uk
E (postgraduate): pgaps@kingston.ac.uk

Accommodation Office (on and off campus)

E: accommodation@kingston.ac.uk
www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation

USA Financial Aid

E: usfinancialaid@kingston.ac.uk
www.kingston.ac.uk/usfinancialaid

Canadian Financial Aid

E: studentfunding@kingston.ac.uk
www.kingston.ac.uk/canadianfinancialaid

Immigration and visa enquiries

International Student Advisory
E: isac@kingston.ac.uk
www.kingston.ac.uk/internationaladvisory
E (visa support letter): visa@kingston.ac.uk

Disclaimer

The University makes every effort to ensure that the content of and statements made within this guide are fair and accurate, but it cannot accept any responsibility for omissions, errors or subsequent changes that may occur. The information provided is a general guide and there may be changes following publication that affect the content.



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