Exchange Student Welcome

Peer-Olaf Siebers

Senior Tutor and Exchange Coordinator

peer-olaf.siebers@nottingham.ac.uk

22/09/2025

University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Purpose of the Session

- Introducing myself as advisor
  - Anything related to your exchange: Ask Me
  - Exchange + Binus Students: Pastoral or academic topics: Ask me
  - UNNC + UNM + Transfer Students: Ask your UoN Personal Tutor

- In this session I will …
  - Reiterating important points from the Y2/Y3 welcome sessions
  - Cover specific welcome topics for international students
  - Provide more details about activity opportunities for international students and how to have an enjoyable time at UoN
  - Reiterate the operation of the Wellbeing and Support Network

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people.cs.nott.ac.uk/pszps/

The University of Nottingham — School of Computer Science

ima Intelligent Modelling & Analysis

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- Mission Statement
- Latest News and Publications

Dr Peer-Olaf Siebers

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School of Computer Science [url]
Intelligent Modelling & Analysis Research Group [url]
The University of Nottingham [url]
Nottingham [url], NG8 1BB, UK [url]
Email: peer-olaf.siebers@nottingham.ac.uk
Orcid ID: 0000-0002-0603-5904
CompSci Building, Room B35 [map]
Office Hours: Please make an appointment via email
My Official University Website [url]

Mission Statement

My main research topic is the application of **Computer Simulation** and **Artificial Intelligence** to study human-centric and coupled human-natural complex adaptive systems. I am a strong advocate of using **Co-Creation** for object oriented **Agent-Based Modelling** (ABM). This novel and highly interdisciplinary research agenda involves disciplines like Social Science, Economics, Marketing, Psychology, Geography, Operations Research, and **Computer Science**. My current research is primarily concerned with the following three areas. On the **methodological frontier** I aim to advance the model development strategies for ABM, through the **Engineering Agent-Based Social Simulations** (EABSS) toolkit. On the **practical frontier** I look at novel uses of simulation for studying Urban Sustainability (including **Smart Cities** and **Smart Roads**), modelling **Human Behaviour** in **Floods** using ABM and **Virtual Reality**, and modelling people's wellbeing at local and global scale. I was a co-investigator in the Leverhulme funded project **Sustaining Urban Habitats**. Furthermore, I am working together with Nottingham City Council's Transport Strategy Department on some Smart City projects. On the **generative AI frontier** I am looking into the use of **Large Language Models** to support and advance agent-based model design and implementation.

Welcome to the UoN School of Computer Science

Welcome to the UoN School of Computer Science

- Head of School
  - Prof Tony Pridmore
    - tony.pridmore@nottingham.ac.uk

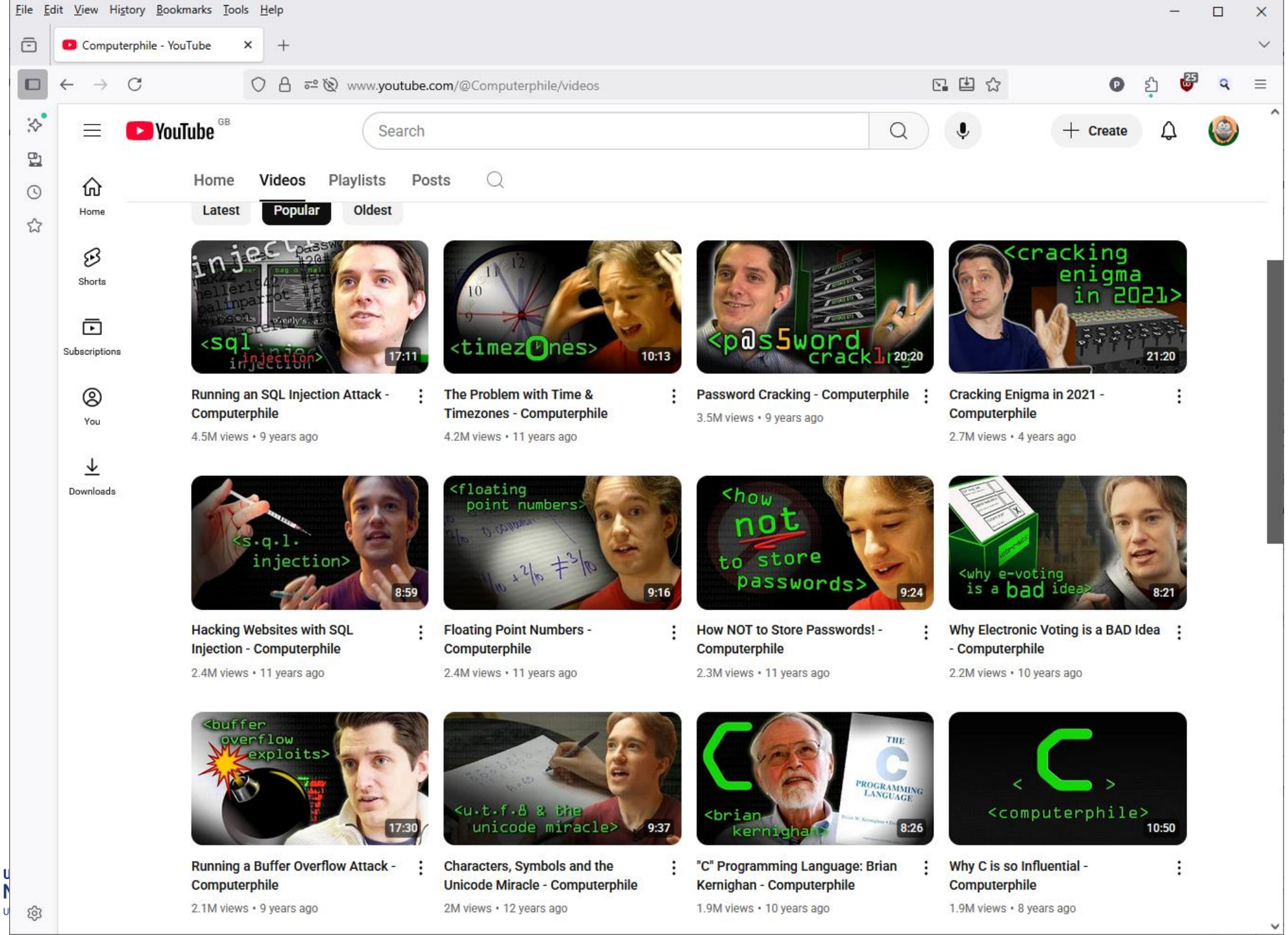
Welcome to the UoN School of Computer Science

- Max Wilson
  - Director of Student Experience
    - max.wilson@nottingham.ac.uk

A Global University

- Campuses in 3 Countries
- 70 world-leading professors and lecturers

- Students from all over the world
- More than 500 students in Y2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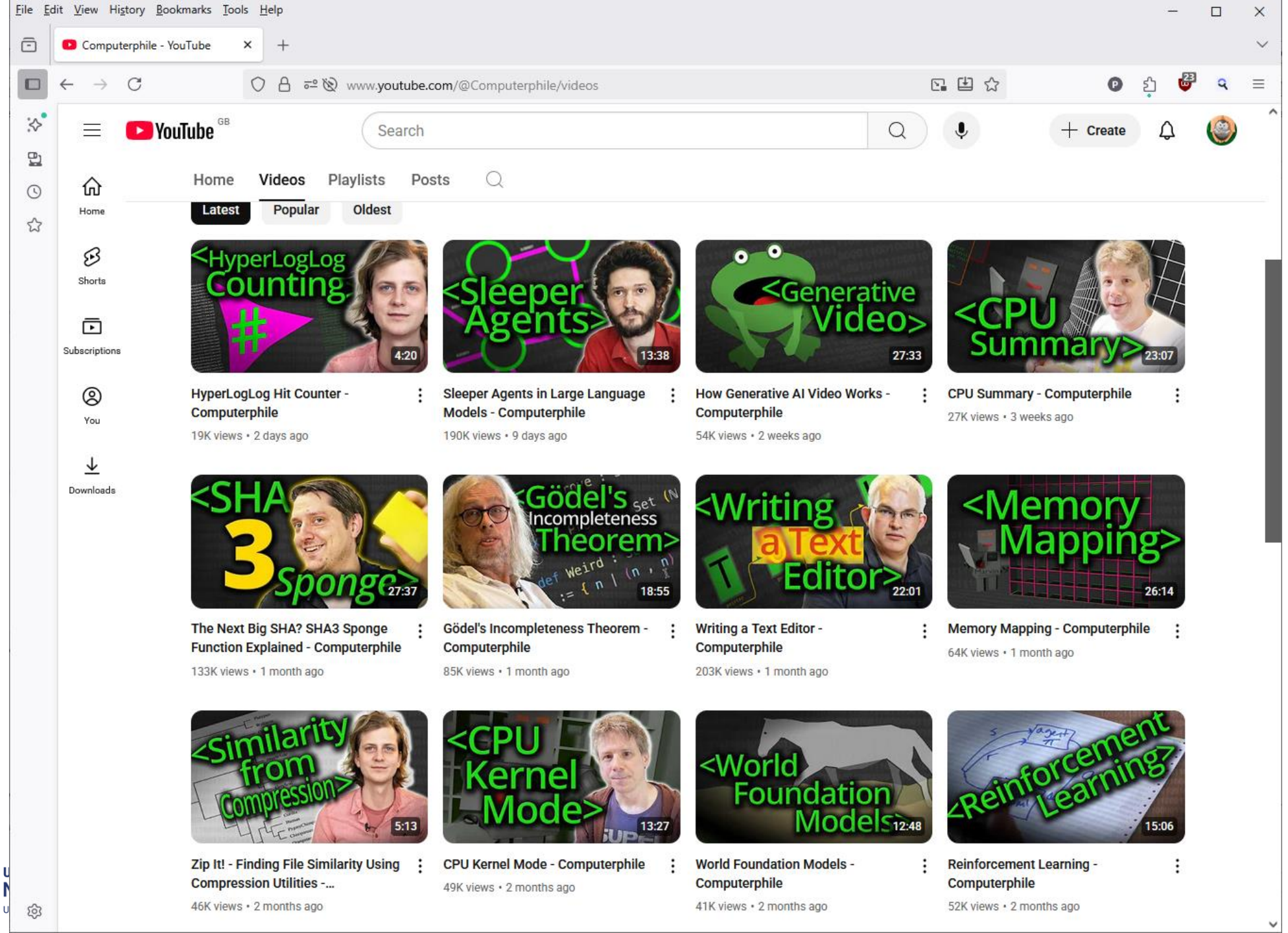
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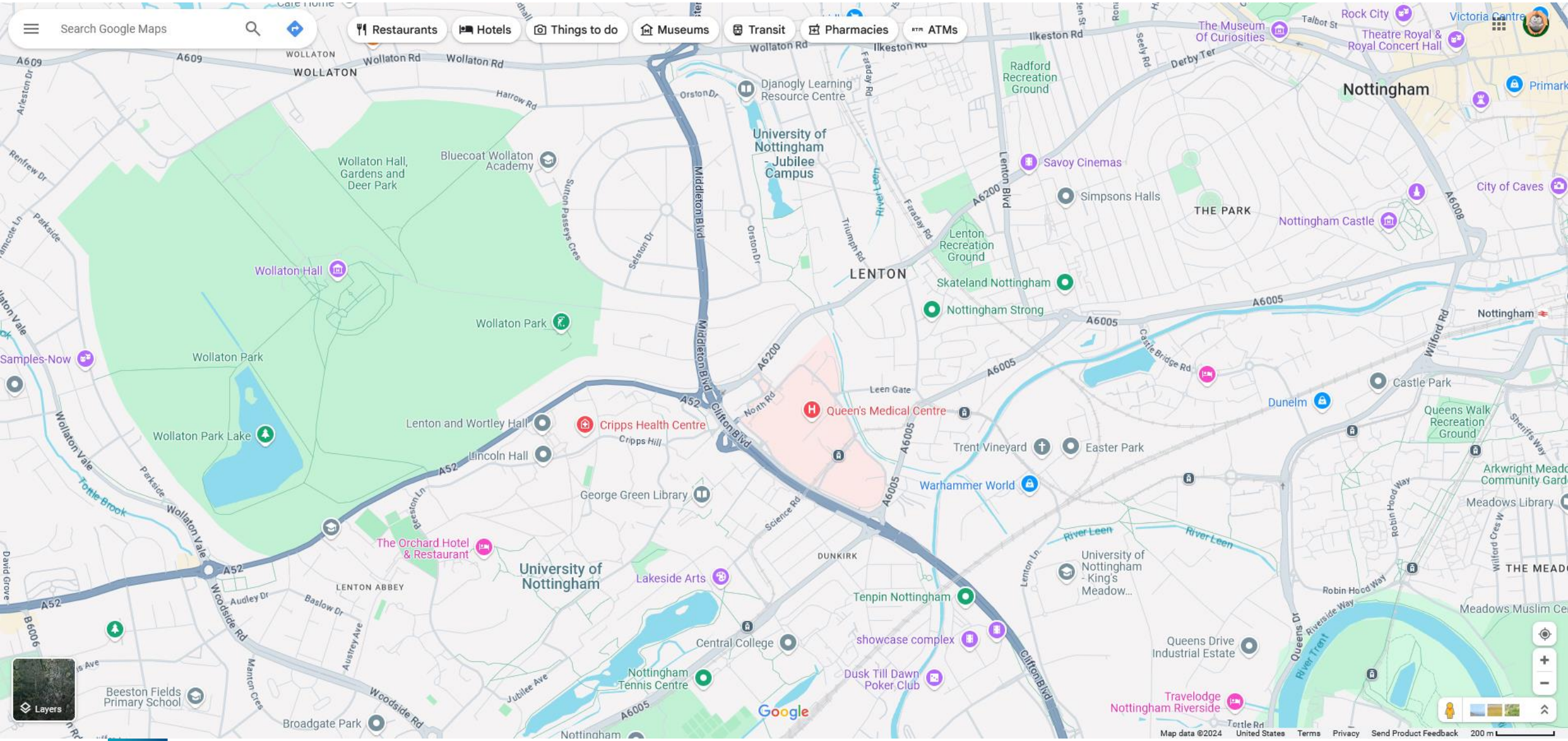
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Wollaton Hall
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Wollaton Park Lake
Samples-Now
Lenton and Wortley Hall
Lincoln Hall
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George Green Library
The Orchard Hotel & Restaurant
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Lakeside Arts
Central College
Nottingham Tennis Centre
Broadgate Park
Beeston Fields Primary School
Djanogly Learning Resource Centre
University of Nottingham - Jubilee Campus
Radford Recreation Ground
Savoy Cinemas
Simpsons Halls
Lenton Recreation Ground
Skateland Nottingham
Nottingham Strong
Nottingham Castle
City of Caves
Queen's Medical Centre
Trent Vineyard
Easter Park
Warhammer World
Dunelm
Castle Park
Queens Walk Recreation Ground
Arkwright Meadows Community Garden
Meadows Library
Tenpin Nottingham
showcase complex
Dusk Till Dawn Poker Club
University of Nottingham - King's Meadow...
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Horizon Centre for Doctoral Training
School of Computer Science
Jubilee Sports Centre
Dearing Building
Newark Hall
University of Nottingham - Jubilee Campus
Business School South
Jubilee Campus Car Park
Si Yuan Centre
The Jubilee Hotel & Conferences
4.3 (780)
3-star hotel
Ingenuity Centre
Institute of Mental Health
Aerospace Technology Centre
Energy Technologies Building
Nottingham Geospatial Institute
Gracie Barra Nottingham
Manor Villages
St Paul's Church
bp
ABS MOTS
Brandon Hire Station
North Star Military Figures
Nottingham Business Centres
Marcus Garvey Centre
The Guilds
Derby Road Health Centre
Faraday Place Serviced Accomodation
Unite Students - Riverside Point
HS Motors
Dairy Box
Farndon Green
Broughton Dr
Fairham Dr
Harrow Rd
Orston Dr
Middleton Blvd
A6514
Sutton Passeys Cres
Hawton Cres
Halby Dr
Longore Square
Averton Square
Triumph Rd
Loverose Wynd
Faraday Rd
Salisbury St
Heron Dr
Shelby Cl
Hinchin Brk
Johnson Rd
Lenton Blvd
Blackburn Row
Dunlop Ave
Falcon Cl
Elmsthorpe Ave
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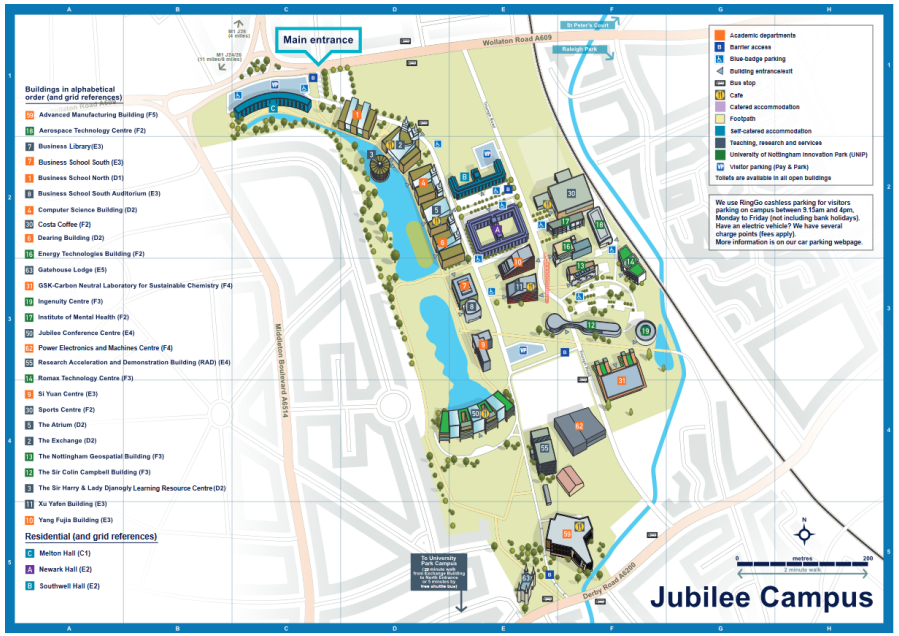
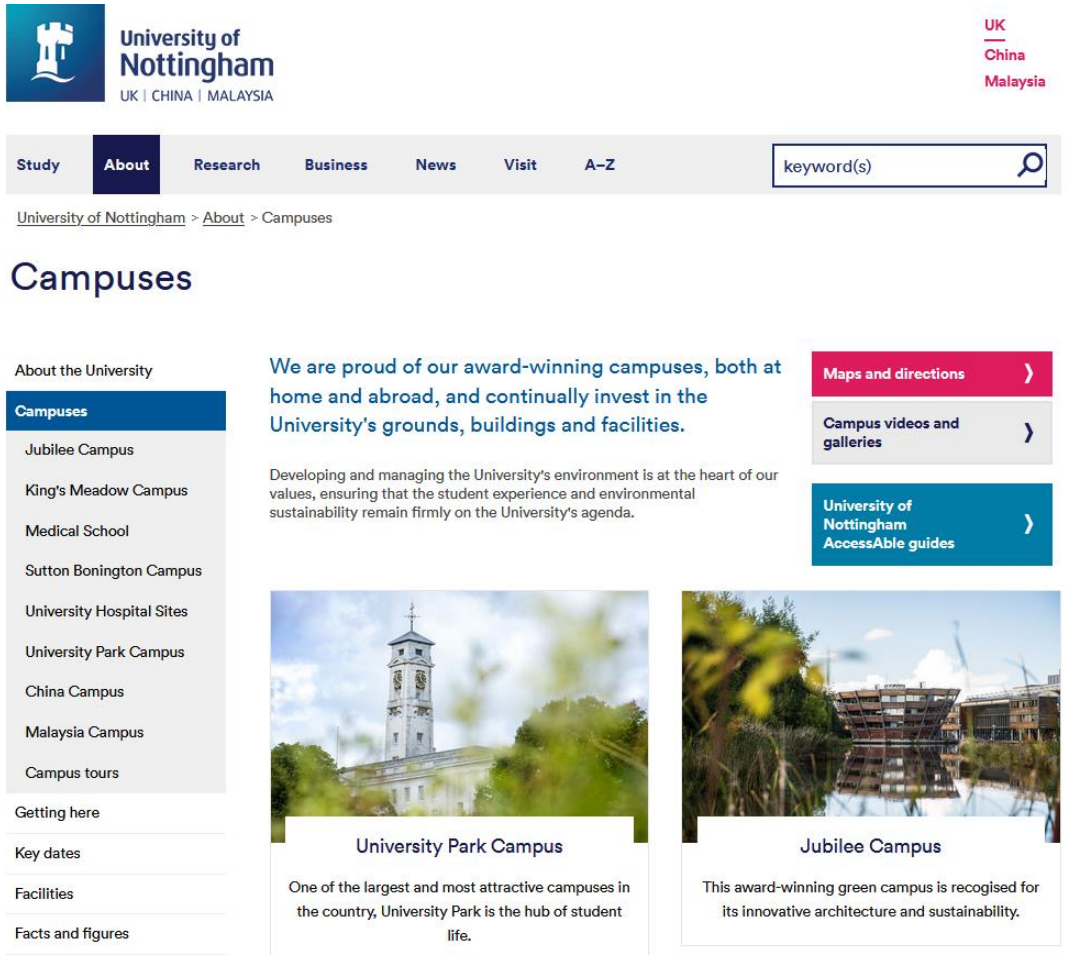
UK Campuses and Maps

- https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/campuses/campuses.aspx



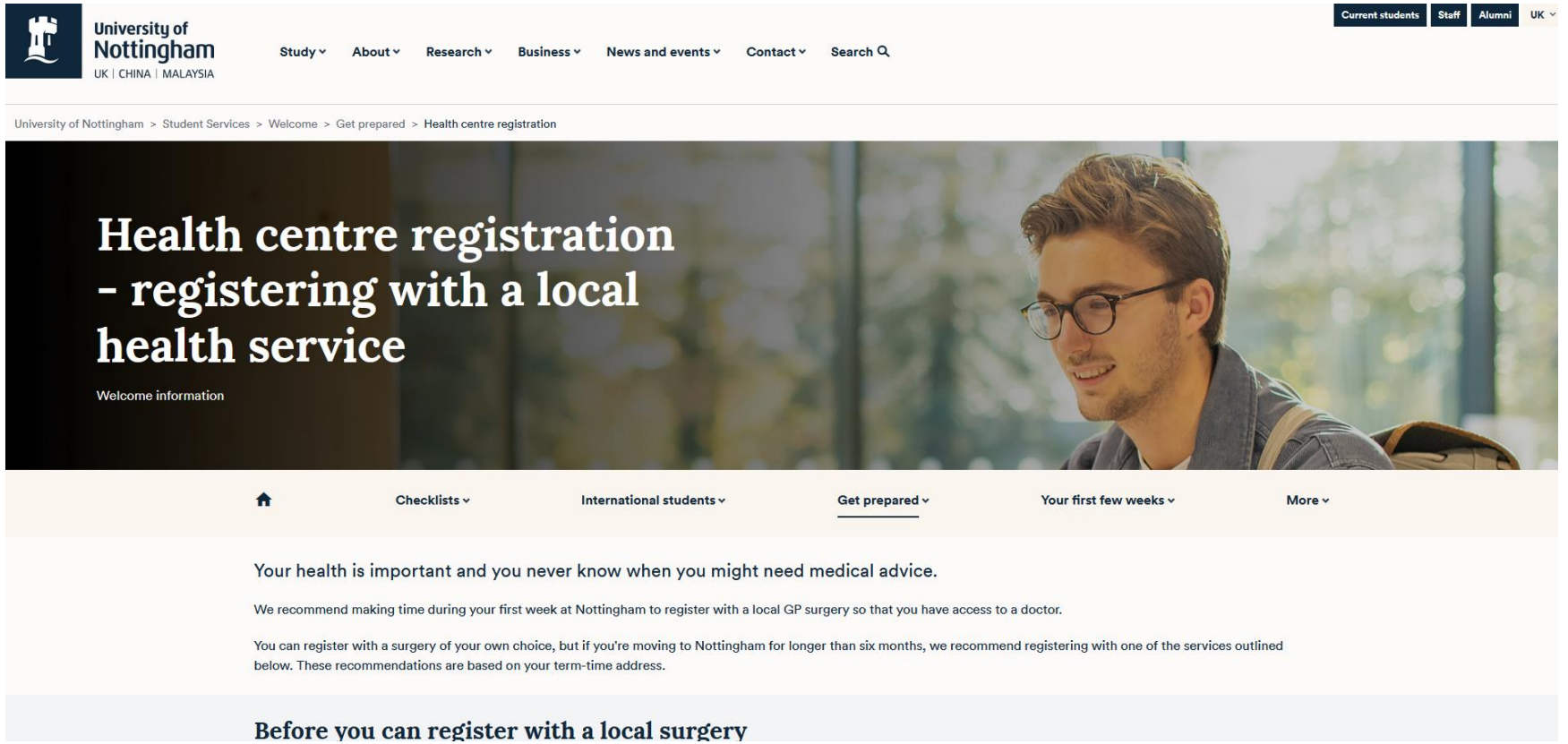


Personal Tutor

- Your personal tutor
  - I am the personal tutor of all exchange students (UNNC and BINUS)
  - Students on mobility from other campuses keep their home personal tutor
    - I will look after them while they are here
- Role of your personal tutor
  - First point of contact and source of advice for anything related to your studies
  - Oversees your academic progress (and write references)
- You should meet your personal tutor
  - At the start of every semester (at least)
  - Any time in between, if needed (send email first)

Register with Doctor

- https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/welcome/get-prepared/health-centre-registration.aspx



Labs and Flexible Student Spaces

- Computer Science Building
  - A32: Lab for teaching and self-study (needs to be vacated upon request)
  - C60: Cyber Security Lab (for teaching only)
  - A06/Pods: Flexible student spaces (useful for group project meetings)
  - B53: Quiet study space (please only occupy if you require a quiet place)
  - C11/B52: Smaller labs (mainly) for self-study
  - Atrium (School of Computer Science / School of Education)

- Dearing Building
  - A34: Lab for teaching and self-study (needs to be vacated upon request)

Group Projects

- All Y2 students are spread across groups
  - You will be in a group with 5 or 6 UNUK students
  - You need to be a good team member
    - Contribute ideas
    - Contribute to discussions
    - Contribute code
    - Participate in presentations

Grades

- From now on all grades count for your final degree
- Required commitment is getting higher
- Likelihood of getting top grades is getting lower

Learn English!

- Learn even MORE English! Lots MORE English!
  - Make the most of this chance to learn more
  - Staff must rate your English speaking and writing in references
- Be brave with speaking English!
  - Most of my Ningbo group project students regret not being brave in group conversations
- Do not rely on Translators and/or Generative AI!

Interesting Facts

- Great Britain vs United Kingdom vs British Isles

What do you want to do after Graduation?

- Who do you ask to be your referee?
  - Your group supervisor knows you best during/after Y2
  - Your dissertation supervisor knows you best during/after Y3
  - Your personal tutor only knows you if you attend supervisor meetings
  - It is your responsibility to make sure they know you well enough

- Ask your referee before putting down their name! Give plenty of notice!
  - In the UK you are asked to provide the name of a referee, not the reference itself

Study and Job References

- Your personal tutor only knows you if you attend supervisor meetings
  - Providing grades and a CV is not enough

- Normal Questions in a Reference
  - Is the applicant in the top X% of their class?
  - Is the applicant good at spoken English?
  - Is the applicant good at written English?
  - Is the applicant independent and confident?
  - Does the applicant try hard and have a good attitude?

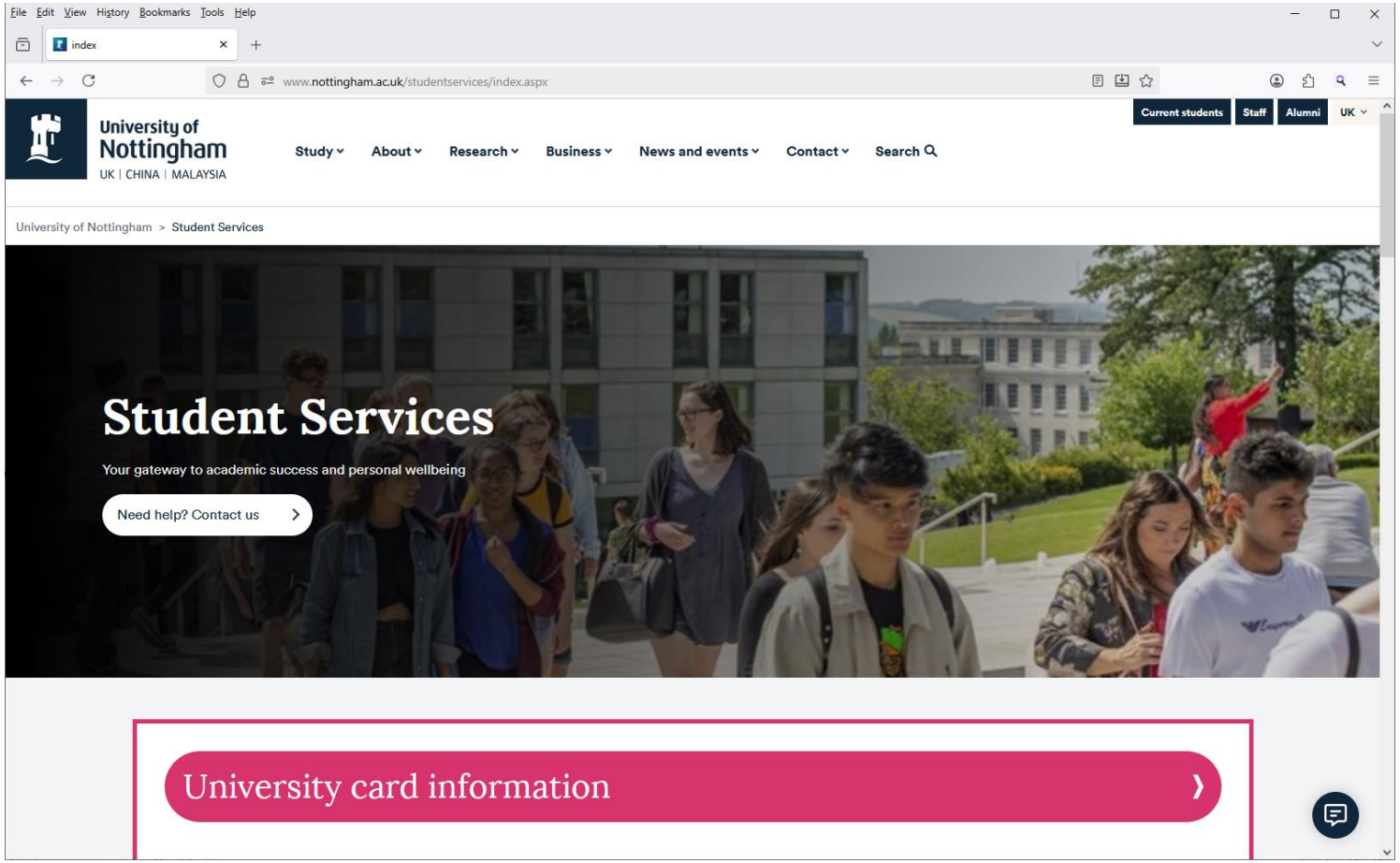
Moodle CompSci Community Page

https://moodle.nottingham.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=118881

- General
- Welcome Week Schedules
- Get Help - Wellbeing, Mental ...
- Get Help - Health & Safety
- Get Help - Services for Stude...
- Get Help - School Staff with ...
- Get Help - Reps, Mentors & S...
- Get Help - Careers Advice an...
- Get Help - Local IT Support
- Degrees - Study Abroad
- Degrees - Industrial Placeme...
- Modules - Module Choices In...
- Modules - Experience Modules
- Modules - BSc and MSci Proj...
- Info - UG, PGT, PGR Handbo...
- Info - Policy on Academic Mi...
- Info - Transfers, Interruption...
- Info - Project Ethics
- Info - BCS and Accreditation
- Info - Teaching Quality Assur...

Student Services

https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/



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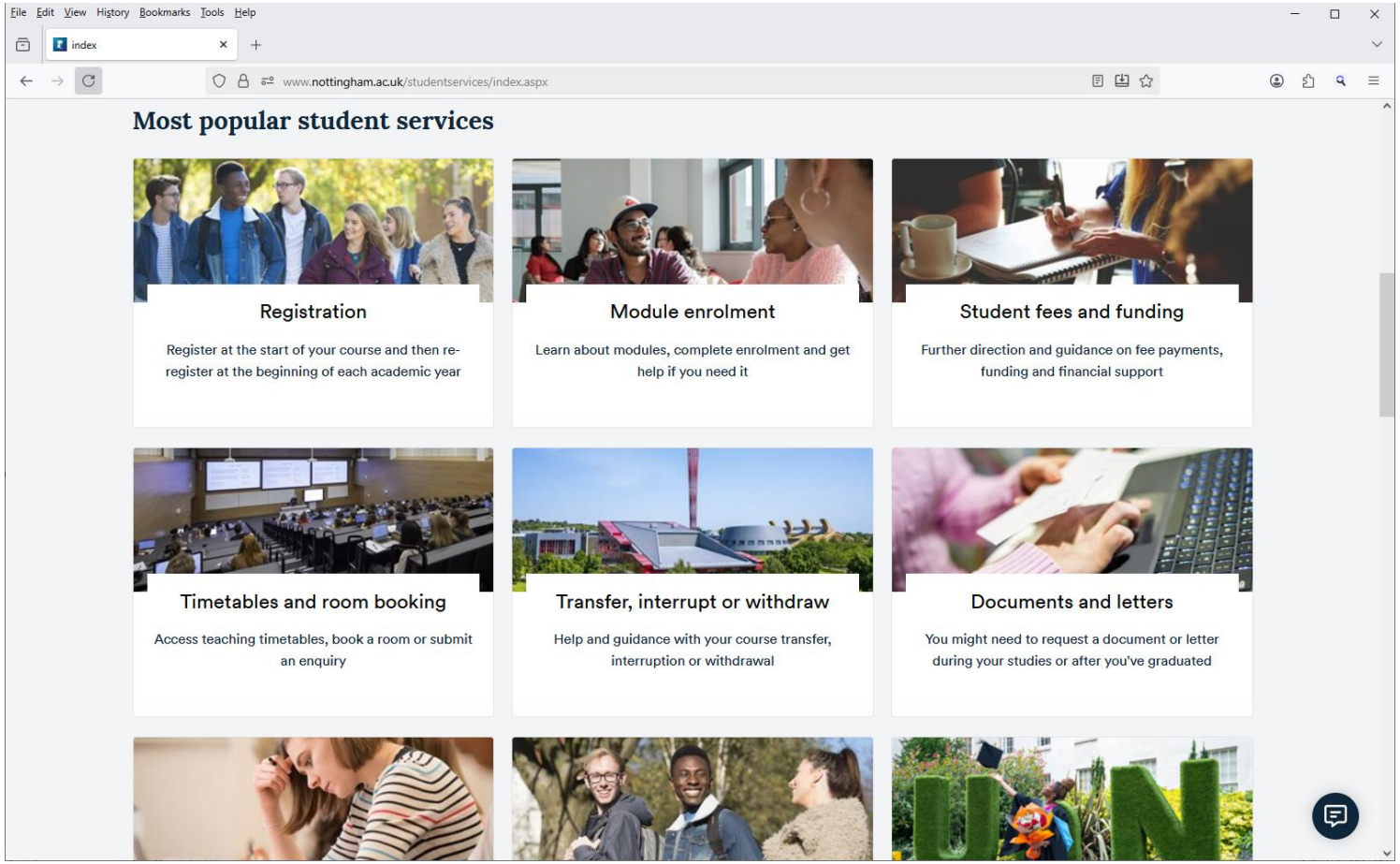
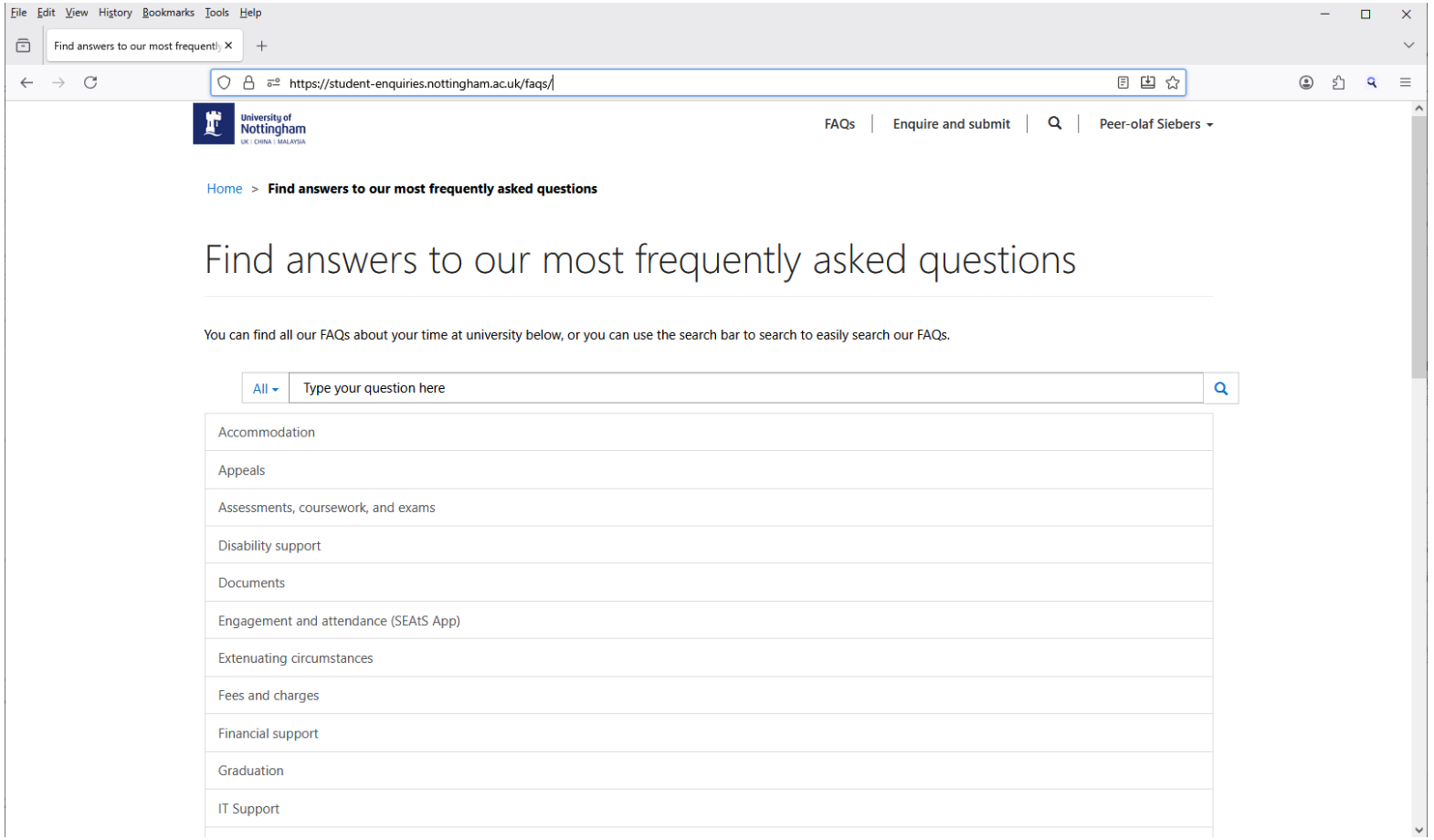


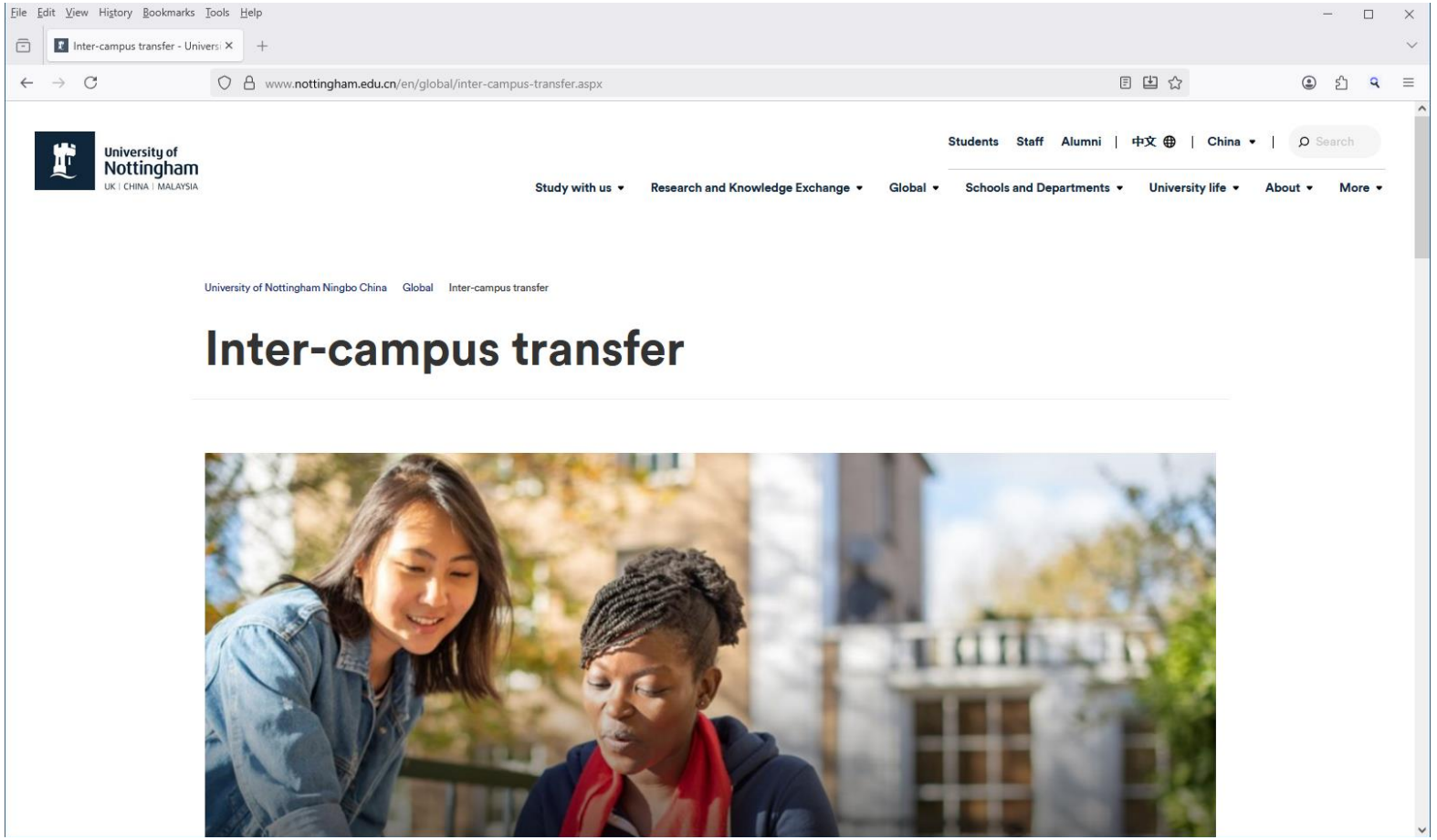
Student Enquiries

https://student-enquiries.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs/



Inter-Campus Transfer

https://www.nottingham.edu.cn/en/global/inter-campus-transfer.aspx



Welcome to the UK Quiz (by Claude Sonnet 4)

Round 1: British Basics

Question 1

What do Brits call what Americans call "fries"?

- A) Crisps
- B) Chips
- C) Wedges
- D) Spuds

Question 2

What time is "half past" in British English?

- A) 15 minutes past the hour
- B) 30 minutes past the hour
- C) 45 minutes past the hour
- D) The end of the hour

Round 2: Nottingham & Local Knowledge

Question 3

Nottingham is famous for which legendary outlaw?

- A) Dick Turpin
- B) Robin Hood
- C) Blackbeard
- D) William Wallace

Question 4

What is Nottingham's football team called?

- A) Nottingham City
- B) Nottingham United
- C) Nottingham Forest
- D) Nottingham Rovers

Round 3: British Food

Question 5

What's traditionally served with fish and chips?

- A) Ketchup
- B) Mushy peas
- C) Coleslaw
- D) Curry sauce

Question 6

A "full English breakfast" definitely includes:

- A) Croissants
- B) Pancakes
- C) Black pudding
- D) Porridge

Quiz (do in your own time – check Appendix 2 for solution)

Round 4: British Etiquette & Culture

Question 7

What should you always do when boarding a British bus?

- A) Show your passport
- B) Say hello to everyone
- C) Queue in an orderly fashion
- D) Take your shoes off

Question 8

If a British person says "That's quite nice," they probably mean:

- A) It's absolutely brilliant
- B) It's okay, nothing special
- C) It's terrible
- D) They're being very enthusiastic

Question 9

What's the proper response when someone says "Alright?" as a greeting?

- A) "Yes, I'm fine, thank you very much"
- B) "Alright?" back
- C) "Good morning"
- D) Just nod silently

Round 5: British Weather & Geography

Question 10

What's the safest topic of conversation with any British person?

- A) Politics
- B) Personal income
- C) The weather
- D) Their age

Question 11

How many countries make up the United Kingdom?

- A) 2
- B) 3
- C) 4
- D) 5

Quiz

Round 6: Peculiar British Things

Question 12

What do British people genuinely discuss for hours?

- A) House prices
- B) What they had for lunch
- C) Traffic on the M25
- D) All of the above

Question 13

What do Brits do when they accidentally make eye contact with a stranger?

- A) Wave enthusiastically
- B) Start a conversation
- C) Awkwardly look away immediately
- D) Bow politely

Question 14

How do British people show they're really angry?

- A) Shout and gesture wildly
- B) Say "I'm not angry, I'm just disappointed"
- C) Slam doors
- D) Give you the silent treatment for months

Question 15

What's the correct British way to end a phone call?

- A) "Goodbye"
- B) "Bye, bye, bye, bye, bye, bye... bye"
- C) Just hang up
- D) "Cheerio, old chap"

Question 16

What do British students call their evening meal?

- A) Dinner (if posh) or Tea (if Northern)
- B) Supper
- C) Evening meal
- D) It depends on what time they eat

Question 17

How many times will a British person say "sorry" when YOU bump into THEM?

- A) Once
- B) Never - it's your fault
- C) At least three times
- D) They'll apologise to the nearest wall as well

Quiz (do in your own time – check Appendix 2 for solution)

Round 7: Nottinghamshire Dialect & Local Language

Question 18

If someone in Nottingham says "It's black over Bill's mother's," what are they talking about?

- A) A family scandal
- B) The weather looks stormy
- C) Someone's cooking has burnt
- D) There's been a power cut

Question 19

What's a "cob" in Nottinghamshire?

- A) A male swan
- B) A bread roll
- C) A small horse
- D) A type of hat

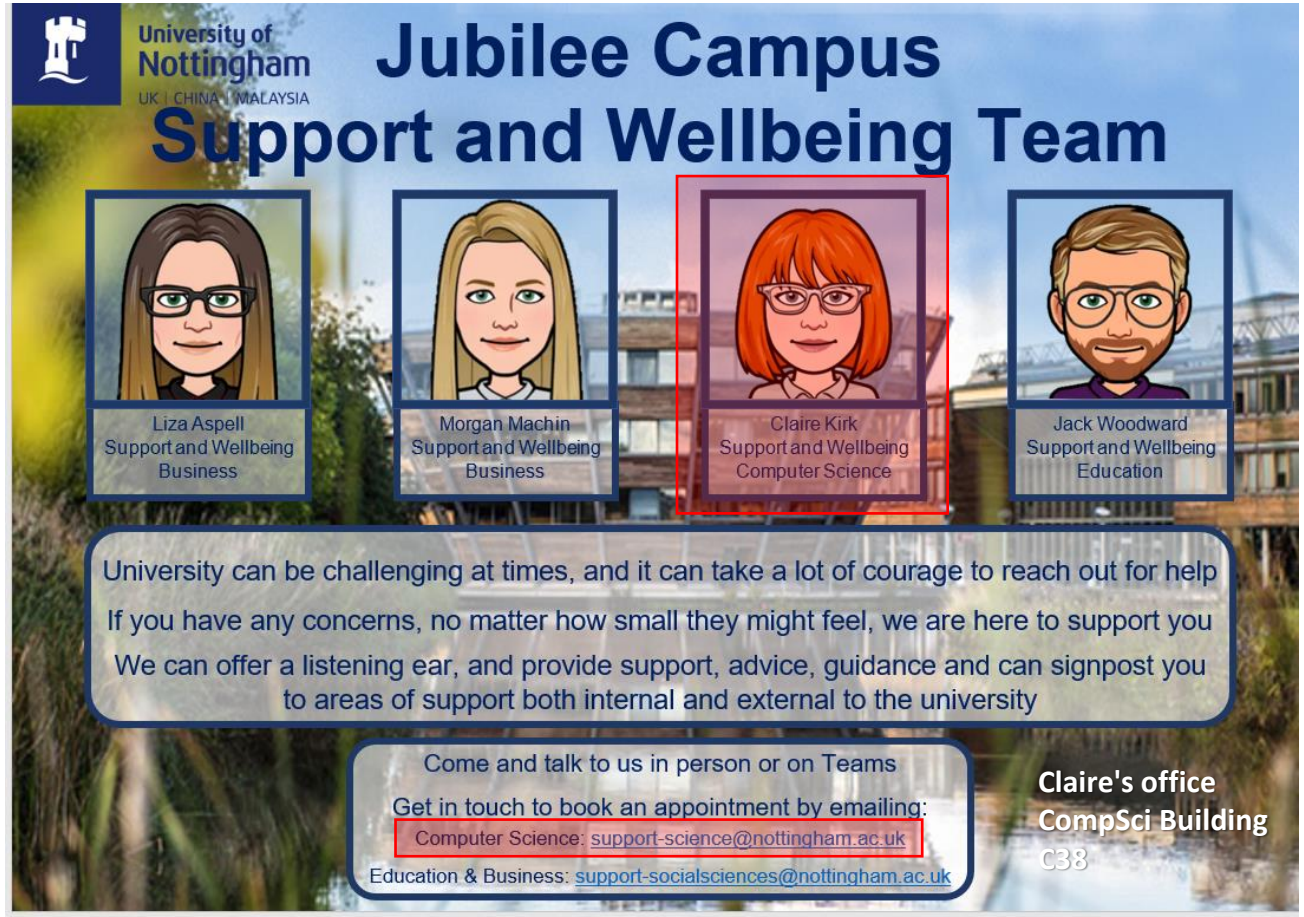
Question 20

If a Nottingham local says "Ay up, duck!" to you, what should you know?

- A) There's a duck behind you
- B) They're asking if you're okay
- C) It's a friendly greeting (and you're not actually a duck)

Support and Wellbeing

https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/currentstudents/wellbeing/



https://mediaspace.nottingham.ac.uk/media/1_1sercupc

Additional Support (slides attached as appendix)

- Senior Tutor
  - Senior Tutor is responsible for coordinating personal tutoring and related student support and development activities in the school

- CompSci Senior Tutor Team
  - Peer-Olaf Siebers
  - Liz Felton

- Contact
  - ps-cs-senior-tutor@nottingham.ac.uk

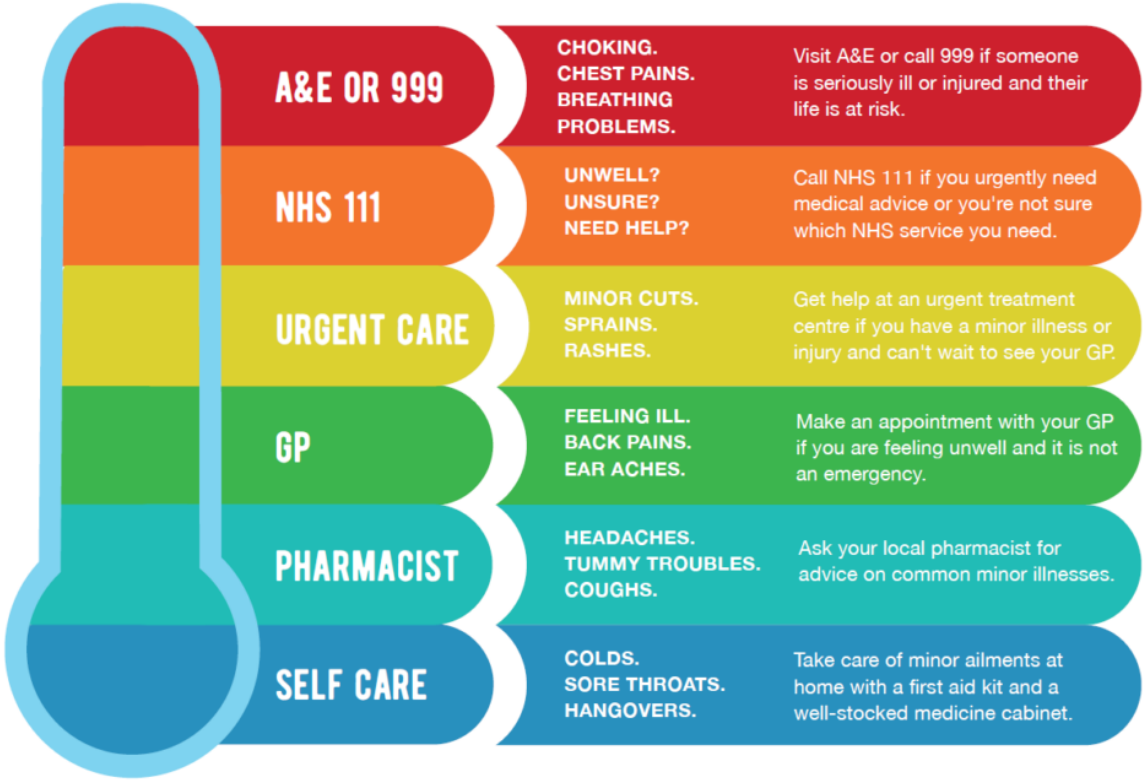
For the following topics check out the Senior Tutor Slides

- Senior Tutor Role
- Extenuating Circumstances
- Disability Support Services
- Exam Adjustments and Religious Observance

Slides are in Appendix 1

Important Numbers

Numbers to Remember on Campus	
8888	**Emergencies**
0115 951 8888	Emergencies (mobile/external)
13013	Security (non-emergency)
13401	Health and Safety Department h&s@nottingham.ac.uk
0115 846 8888	Cripps Health Centre
16666	Estate Office Help Desk
0115 951 6666	Estate Office Help Desk (mobile/external)



What to do in Nottingham

- Historical Sites
  - **Nottingham Castle:** Recently reopened after major renovations, featuring Robin Hood exhibitions and great city views
  - **City of Caves:** Fascinating network of sandstone caves beneath the city centre
  - **Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem:** Claims to be England's oldest inn, carved into the castle rock

- Cultural Attractions
  - **National Justice Museum:** Interactive museum in the old courthouse
  - **Nottingham Contemporary:** Excellent modern art gallery
  - **Theatre Royal & Royal Concert Hall:** Top venues for shows and performances

What to do in Nottingham

- Areas to Explore
  - **Lace Market:** Historic quarter with Victorian architecture, now full of bars, restaurants and independent shops
  - **Hockley:** Trendy area with vintage shops, cafés and street art

- Green Spaces:
  - **Wollaton Hall & Park:** Elizabethan mansion with deer park and Natural History Museum
  - **Sherwood Forest:** Just outside the city, perfect for Robin Hood fans
  - **The Arboretum:** Victorian park near the city centre

What to do in Nottingham

- Shopping & Markets:
  - **Victoria Centre:** Major shopping centre
  - **Old Market Square:** Regular markets and events in one of the UK's largest city squares

- Daily Shopping (note that Sundays shops close at 4/5pm)
  - **Lidl + Aldi**: Low price segment
  - **Sainsbury + Tesco**: Medium price segment
  - **Marks & Spencer Food + Waitrose**: High price segment
  - **Small shops**: Have generous opening hours

QR Code Scanning

https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/currentstudents/news/supporting-your-academic-engagement

Library and IT essentials

Exam Period

Study abroad

Students' Union

Your assessment results

Standards of behaviour

Supporting your academic engagement

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

Following a successful adoption of the Student Engagement Dashboard, the university will continue using it during the academic year ahead.

The Student Engagement Dashboard helps staff identify undergraduate and postgraduate taught students who may need additional support with their studies or more general wellbeing.

The dashboard captures your engagement in face-to-face teaching via QR codes displayed by the teaching staff during your lecture, seminar, tutorial, lab, etc. To log your attendance, open the camera (or QR reader app) on your phone, scan the QR code, and enter your username and password. If you are unable to capture your attendance, please speak to teaching staff who can enter the information on your behalf.

This information is then fed into the dashboard along with other data, such as that from Teams meetings, Moodle activity, and other digital tools activities, to provide key members of academic and support staff an overview of your academic engagement. The experience of both students and staff during 2021/22 has been reviewed and the engagement dashboard has been enhanced to include a view that your personal tutor can access.

The dashboard will be used to support your welfare and will not impact your grades or assessments. If we notice a significant change in your levels of academic engagement, your personal tutor, your academic unit or a member of the Support and Wellbeing team may reach out to you with an offer of support. There will be no judgement attached to such an offer – merely an offer of help if you need it.

If you are on a sponsored student visa the dashboard will also be used to support the monitoring requirements of UK Visas and Immigration.

You will be able to request a copy of the data we hold about you in the dashboard at any time. To

Anything Else?

- Staff usually reply to emails in 2-3 working days (but some might take longer)
- Student Evaluation of Module (SEM)
- Student Union (Societies and Advice)
- Discord
- HackSoc

Final Words

- Risk
  - It's easy to spend time with your friends from Ningbo
  - If you do this too much, you miss opportunities arising from being in the UK

- Advice
  - Make most out of your time in UNUK
  - Be part of the UNUK community
  - Get to know staff well
  - Show off how good you are

Enjoy your time with us in the UK

Questions?

Image Source: https://improvingteaching.co.uk/2022/02/20/professional-development-that-works-three-questions-to-ask/

Appendix 1

Senior Tutor Presentation Slides

University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Senior Tutor Team

Peer-Olaf Siebers and Liz Felton

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Contact

- Senior Tutor Team
  - Liz Felton (liz.felton@nottingham.ac.uk)
  - Peer-Olaf Siebers (peer-olaf.siebers@nottingham.ac.uk)

- Our joint email account (quickest way to get a response)
  - Senior Tutor Team: ps-cs-senior-tutor@nottingham.ac.uk

- We aim to respond within 3 days
  - If you do not get a response within 3 days, please resend your message, adding an @ at the beginning of your subject line (e.g. "@ Interruption of study advice needed")

Our Role

- Main duty: Providing pastoral care including acting as a secondary source of advice where problems cannot be resolved by personal tutors
- We attend School / Faculty / University Meetings
  - Learning Community Forum
  - Teaching and Learning Committee
  - Senior Tutors' Network …
- We are in touch with
  - Disability Liaison Officer
  - University's Support and Wellbeing Service
  - Extenuating Circumstances Panel
  - Director of Teaching and Learning …

Useful Links

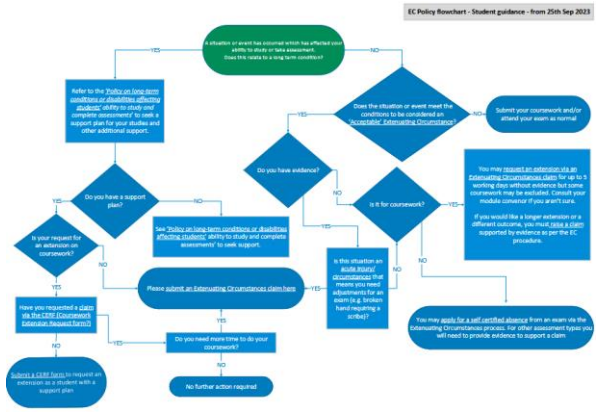
- Student Enquiry Centre (and EC submission)
  - https://student-enquiries.nottingham.ac.uk/
- Report + Support (report inappropriate behaviour)
  - https://reportandsupport.nottingham.ac.uk/
- Progression
  - https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/qualitymanual/2-documents/ug-regs-flow-chart.pdf
- Scams
  - https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/dts/security/protecting-yourself/phishing-emails.aspx

Extenuating Circumstances (1/2)

- Extenuating Circumstances (ECs) are events that affect your performance in assessments which are unforeseen and out of your control
  - For exceptional, short-term circumstances
    - QM Regulations: https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/qualitymanual/assessment-awards-and-deg-classification/ext-circumstances.aspx (check Section 2)
    - Student Services: https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/servicedetails/extenuating-circumstances/extenuating-circumstances.aspx (best description)
  - For long term circumstances use the Disability Support Services
    - https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/servicedetails/disability-support-services/disability-support-services.aspx (apply as soon as you join the school)

Extenuating Circumstances (2/2)

- ECs with Evidence
  - Check QM EC regulations (Section 2.3)
- ECs without evidence
  - Check QM EC regulations (Section 2.4)
- Timeline
  - Coursework
    - Claims must be submitted **before the coursework dea**dline
  - Timetabled examinations/assessments
    - EC claims must be submitted prior to, or **within 5 working days** of, the examination/assessment
  - Evidence
    - Should usually be provided **at the time of making the EC claim**
    - May be submitted **up to 10 working days** from the deadline / examination
  - Submission is online



https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/documents/extenuating-circumstances/new-ec-policy-flowchart-1.pdf

Disability Support Services

- Disability Support Services
  - Offer support for students with a disability, mental health difficulty, long-term medical condition, autistic spectrum condition, or a specific learning difference such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia or ADHD.
    - https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/servicedetails/disability-support-services/disability-support-services.aspx (apply as soon as you join the school)
  - Support plan (discuss what can be offered with the Disability Liaison Officer)
    - Reasonable time adjustments for completing coursework and exams
    - Room adjustments during exams …
- Remember …
  - For long term circumstances use the Disability Support Services
  - For exceptional, short-term circumstances use EC procedure

Exam Adjustments

- Exam adjustments
  - All details: https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/servicedetails/assessment-and-examinations/exam-adjustments-and-religious-observance.aspx
  - Long term: Contact Disability Support Services
  - Short term: Apply for ECs

- Religious observance: Fill out Religious Observance form (use above link)
  - Exams can be scheduled on Saturdays

- For **application deadlines** check above webpage

Generative AI

- Read and obey the Quality Manual Rules about Generative AI
  - https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/qualitymanual/assessment-awards-and-deg-classification/pol-academic-misconduct.aspx (check Section 2.2)

- There are many use cases where you can use Generative AI
  - Using it as a tutor
  - Using it as a dictionary
  - Creating projects not related to coursework …

- If you are using it for activities that are prohibited under the Quality Manual regulations (e.g. translation of coursework) it will lead to a lot of trouble

Questions?

Image Source: https://improvingteaching.co.uk/2022/02/20/professional-development-that-works-three-questions-to-ask/

Appendix 2

Quiz Solutions

Quiz Solution

- Q1: B
- Q2: B
- Q3: B
- Q4: C
- Q5: B
- Q6: C
- Q7: C
- Q8: B
- Q9: B
- Q10: C
- Q11: C
- Q12: D
- Q13: C
- Q14: B
- Q15: B
- Q16: A
- Q17: C
- Q18: B
- Q19: B
- Q20: C