

Dear Student

WELCOME to **En Route**! We are so pleased that you are coming to All Nations and believe that God is bringing us together for a very special purpose. We are praying for you as you prepare to come to college.

As we go through the course there will be time for reading, reflection and a number of course assignments. Each student will also be guided through a research project of their own choice. There is no reading requirement before you start. To get the most out of the 10 weeks you will need plenty of energy and those who have completed **En Route** recommend that, if possible, you take time to rest before you arrive. You may also want to keep your diaries free of additional commitments while you are here. Being free to fully engage in life at All Nations means you will gain more from being part of this international, mission community.

On arrival at college we will help you to settle in, answer your questions and show you around. During the first few days we shall provide some specific orientation to living at college (please see the separate orientation programme – which all new students will follow). There will be time over the weekend to relax and enjoy the lovely grounds as well as a few social events to start getting to know the other students.

The **En Route** course will begin on Monday 30th September. On Monday morning please go to Maple Hall ready for Kick Off, a whole community event every Monday from 8.30 – 9.15. After Kick Off we shall go together to the **En Route** centre and begin our first session. You will receive the timetable when you arrive at college but most days will follow a similar pattern with sessions from 9.25am to 1.00pm and various practical things in the afternoons. Each of you will be part of a tutor group who you will meet with for worship and prayer two mornings a week from 8.40 to 9.15. This smaller group is also a good place to make closer friendships within the student body. You will have loads of questions and information you will want to find out but don't worry, everyone here is very friendly and we shall be ready to help you through the first days as you get to know your way around.

During your term at All Nations you will be encouraged to attend a local church for at least 50% of the Sundays of term. For a few this will not be possible as you will have other commitments at the weekends. However, most **En Routers** find it is a valuable experience being part of a local fellowship even for a short period of time.

Every student is expected to be involved in daily chores and weekly maintenance. You will be assigned to a team for chores, either in the kitchen or cleaning. College maintenance includes a wide range of practical tasks so if you have particular practical skills, you can offer do let us know. These ways of serving in the community are actually a key part of community life and often the opportunity to learn surprising lessons about other cultures! In the second part of term **En Route** students will have the opportunity to take up some of the leadership roles within the student body, including leading tutor group or being part of student committees. Do come ready to serve.

As well as your fellow **En Route** students you will also have plenty of interaction with the wider body of international students who are studying here. This is a real blessing. Some of the most valuable learning is as we interact with each other doing our community chores or at a meal time.

Here is some advice from people who have recently done En Route

- You may want to bring traditional dress or country specific items for cross-cultural events or even some dressing up clothes for parties
- Have someone pray for you while you are doing **En Route**
- Try not to have other commitments during the course
- Be ready to be challenged and surprised in your faith and world view and...
- Be open to what God will do in you
- How much you benefit depends on how involved you are
- Be a friend to others in the first few weeks- it's worth it
- Be brave if English is not your mother tongue
- Bring an English Bible
- Set your own priorities - don't think you need to be involved in every activity in college

- Families - be prepared for lots of forms to fill in! The timetable can be quite full on and you may need time in the afternoons for study.

(Our top tip would be to complete all relevant forms that you are able to before travelling to All Nations – this will significantly reduce your administration during the first week at college.)

We are very encouraged by the testimonies of those who have taken this programme. Please come ready to participate fully. **En Route** is a journey together and each one of us has a vital part to play. There is a great mix of nationalities, gender and ages in **En Route** and the wider College community, providing a rich cross-cultural milieu in which to learn. Let's start praying for one another and that God will gather together a group to share this experience with.

Looking forward to welcoming you **en** board!