How to get GI Bill Benefits Started

- If you have not already done so, you will need to apply for your GI Bill benefits through the VA: https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/.
    - Once the VA processes your application (6-8 weeks), they will send you a Certificate of Eligibility in the mail. Please email a copy of that to me.
- Please submit the following online, internal-to-UK, benefit request form after you register for your classes: http://seeblue.com/varequest
    - I need this form every semester, and I always send out a group email to remind everyone to turn the form in each term. Please be sure to check your UK email account regularly. All communication from my office will go to your UK address.

What does the GI Bill Pay?

- The GI Bill will pay a monthly stipend directly to you while class is in session.
    - The amount of your stipend depends upon a number of factors, such as whether you bought into the "Kicker" program.
    - See here for base rates for Chapter 30 MGIB (active duty military members) and Chapter 1606 MGIB (members of the National Guard and Reserves): https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp
- The GI Bill payment will arrive around the first of each month, but the benefit pays a month in arrears.
    - The earliest you will see payment for Fall is around September 1st; that payment will be a small one, since class is only in session for about a week in August.
    - The first full payment will arrive around October 1st, payment for September.
    - The payments will direct-deposit into the bank routing number you provided to the VA on your original application for the benefit.
- I do not have access to VA records to check on payment status.
    - If you have questions about your monthly stipend, please contact the VA directly at 888-442-4551.
    - Allow a 5-day window on either side of the 1st for payment.

Verifying Attendance

- You **must** verify attendance with the VA at the end of each month to get paid.
- There are two methods of verifying attendance:
    - Online: https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do
    - By phone: 888-442-4551
    - You will be asked to provide your file number when you verify attendance; that is your social security number.