

# Arrivals Project

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For further information see:  
<http://www.decsy.org.uk>  
OR  
<http://www.jeremyabrahams.co.uk/arrivals>

## EAL Support Materials

These materials are intended to support those learning English as an Additional Language. They can simply be read as comprehension exercises or used as the basis for other activities. Those profiles on this first page have simpler easier to understand English with more difficult profiles on the second page. All the profiles and many more can be found on the Arrivals website noted above.

### 2007: Ales Pokuta and Maria Pokutova

Racism is worse in Slovakia than in England, so it's hard for Roma people to find work and provide for their children. I first came to Sheffield with my parents and family from the small village of Žehra in Slovakia in 2007. We couldn't speak English when we first arrived and that made it hard to find jobs here. In 2010 I went back to Slovakia for six months but then I came again in 2011 and haven't been back since. Maria came here in 2013. We met here.

Now I speak English and I want my children to adopt English culture. Although we rent our house from a landlord we have put a lot of work and money into doing up the house.

### 2007: Chaithra Chinnaraj

I came from Bangalore in southern India, arriving in Sheffield on a pleasant sunny day in June 2007. It's been my home ever since. Lots of things have changed since 2007, new buildings and new developments, but the people remain warm and friendly, which is one of the things I love most about Sheffield.

I was married as a very young girl, but it is here that I have learnt about life and grown into a confident young woman. I am looking forward to the rest of my life in Sheffield and the experiences it brings in the future.

### 2006: Magdalena Garpiel

My husband Adam and I were running a successful business with a partner in Bielsko-Biala when we decided to leave Poland. We wanted to learn another language and meet new people - a new adventure. Adam came first and got a job at The Druid's Inn in Birchover as the owner was looking for staff from Poland. I joined him six months later and after a spell in Rowsley in a shared house with other Poles we ended up both working at Thyme Cafe in Broomhill where Adam was Head Chef in 2006. Our daughter was born in 2012 and she loves to go to Forge Dam to feed the ducks and hurtle down the slide.

### 1979: Mohammed Amin

Both of my grandfathers and my father were in the British Army. After independence I was in the Pakistan Army. My uncle had come to Sheffield with his family after independence and when I left the Pakistan Army I came to visit.

A marriage was arranged for me here and so I settled in Sheffield, falling in love and bringing up two children, whilst owning a grocery store and then driving a taxi.

**2002: Renata Gargala**

I grew up in Poland during the Communist era, when travel outside Poland was not permitted. As a child I dreamt of travelling to different and exciting places. When I was 16 the Berlin Wall fell and I felt as if the world was opening up for me. At 17 I began to travel throughout Europe, exploring different cultures and learning different languages.

On one of my journeys, to Greece, I met my future husband travelling over land by bicycle. We shared a passion for travel and adventure and together decided that we would live in England.

As a child I loved the long periods of time I spent in the Polish countryside and so I'm not always content in the city. But Sheffield enables me to make trips to the Peak District with my family and friends and this is what I love the most about living here.

**2000: Wanlin Steele**

I trained as a dancer in my native China from the age of ten. Dance was not my choice - it somehow came into my life and chose me. I was admitted to the Department of Classical Chinese Dance Performance at the prestigious Beijing Dance Academy. After graduation I became a professional dancer, teacher and choreographer. I toured China and performed on national television.

I arrived in Sheffield in December 2000 with my husband David, and spent most of my time with our two sons while they were growing up. The art of Chinese dance remained a part of me, and I've always wanted to share it with people in Sheffield and the UK. I started teaching and performing again and, in 2012, Wanlin Dance School was born.

**2014: Rawan Dardok and Ahmed Maani**

Ahmed and I met 7 years ago at University in Nablus; I was in the science department and he was studying engineering. He then studied for a Master's degree at Edinburgh University, and when he was offered a job in Sheffield he asked me to join him.

It was a very hard decision, as it meant leaving my lonely mother and my ill brother behind in Palestine, a country where going back home safe is all that people wish for.

I made the decision to move to Sheffield in September 2014 and I have met wonderful people who made me feel at home. I love how warm, welcoming, kind and accepting Sheffield is. We are both very happy and grateful for the new hopeful life we are enjoying.

**1992: Eva Kaltenthaler**

I am originally from the USA and met my English husband in Malawi, where I worked as a public health volunteer. We came to Sheffield with our two young daughters in 1992. Before that we had also lived in Zimbabwe and Botswana. Since arriving here we have also had twin daughters. All the girls are grown up now but come home frequently. I also now have a young grandson. We still love to visit Africa.

People here are still puzzled by my accent and ask where I am from although in the USA everyone thinks I am English!

I have worked at the University of Sheffield since 1998 and am now a Professor in the School of Health. I love living in Sheffield, it is a warm and friendly city and I have always felt welcome. It feels like home now. I can't imagine living anywhere else.