



Studying in the **UK**

The international student's guide to moving
to a UK university

NCUK
THE UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

Welcome to the UK – The International Student Guide to Moving to a UK University

We know you are excited to start your journey at a UK university! Here at NCUK, we are experts in providing you with advice and guidance as you are about to undertake your brand-new adventure of studying abroad at a UK university.



Step 1: Before you leave

Your adventure to the UK is about to begin and so is the planning. Here are some things that you will have to remember to do before you arrive to the UK:

- ✓ Obtain your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)
- ✓ Apply for your **student visa**
- ✓ Get travel insurance
- ✓ Check if there are any health requirements – vaccinations, medical certificates, **TB screening** etc.
- ✓ Get your currency exchanged
- ✓ Plan and budget your trip
- ✓ Check your accommodation details
- ✓ Check term dates
- ✓ Book a '**meet and greet**' at the airport – check with your university for details



How long will it take for my CAS to be issued?

Your CAS will be sent out once all conditions of your offer have been met. You should check the conditions of your offer to make sure you have completed everything!



How do I apply for my VISA?

You can find lots of information on how to apply for a student visa here: [👉 www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa](https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa)

Make sure you pay attention to deadlines and gather the supporting documents for your application early so not to cause any delays.



Do I need a Tuberculosis (TB) test?

You might be required to provide proof of a TB test as part of your visa application. For further information you can check here: [👉 www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk](https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk)

Step 2: What should you pack?

There are plenty of places to shop when you arrive in the UK, so only bring the essentials. You might not want to exceed your baggage allowance as this may incur additional costs at the airport and will make packing not so easy when you go back home at the end of the academic year.

Here's our handy list of the essentials to bring with you:

- Warm clothes – it can get a little cold in the winter months
- Laptop and charger
- Charger for your mobile phone
- Travel adapters
- Essential toiletries that you can't be without!
- Medication and any medical certificates
- Passport photos
- Umbrella/raincoat

TOP TIP – MAKE COPIES.

You never know, your phone may run out of battery, so make sure to have copies of all your important documents (passport, Visa, CAS, credit card, university address, insurance documents, tenancy agreements, etc.) in your hand luggage just in case you might need them!





Step 3: Arriving at University

There is a lot to take in during your first week of university but the better you prepare, the better you will adapt to this new adventure.

In the first couple of days, finding the students union and taking a campus tour will allow you to become familiar with your new study place. You can visit all the buildings in which your classes will take place and your student union is always a great place to grab a bite to eat and socialise.

Below are a few things to help you get started once you arrive at your university:

- ✓ **Attend enrolment** – check your emails for information from your university about where and when to attend
- ✓ **Check your classes and read the course syllabus** – are you enrolled for the correct classes? A read through of your syllabus will help you to prepare for your first class and tell you if there is any homework due
- ✓ **Find the International Office** – the staff here can help you with anything!
- ✓ **Go to 'Freshers Fair'** – your best opportunity to join a club and pick up some free goodies
- ✓ **Register with your local GP** – registration can take a while, so act fast just in case you become ill. For help with this, ask the International Office
- ✓ **Register with the police** - only applicable if it is a condition on your student visa
- ✓ **Open a bank account** – many banks offer student accounts in the UK, so do your research!
- ✓ **Get a local SIM card** – ask the International Office to help you avoid steep international calling fees
- ✓ **Get your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)** – further details can be found at: www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits
- ✓ **Check if you need to pay any Council Tax** - students are usually exempt from paying this but it can apply to students who live 'off campus'. Check for more details here: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Council-Tax

TOP TIP - JOIN A CLUB!

Fitting in will be easier if you join a club or a society. This will allow you to keep practising your favourite sports and activities or maybe try many new ones. Attending your university 'Freshers' Fair' is a great starting point. You will also meet students in the same situation as you and you'll make new friends, so make the most of what your university has to offer!



Who should I contact if I get lost when I arrive?

If you have arranged a **'meet and greet'** at the airport, make sure to get a contact telephone number before you leave home. You may also want to get the telephone number of the university's International Office.



What happens if I arrive late?

It is strongly recommended that you arrive on time. Details of your course start date will be on your CAS. If you arrive late you may miss your induction, enrolment and potentially miss your first lectures. If you think you are going to arrive late you should get in touch with the International Office at your university.

Student Support

If you ever feel like you need to talk to someone, there is plenty of help around. It is completely normal to feel a bit homesick, but you will find that lots of other students are feeling the same way! Keep your body and mind healthy by exercising and eating well, and make sure you always ask for help when you need it. Join student societies and clubs to make sure that you socialise and don't isolate yourself.

TOP TIP – STUDENT SUPPORT.

UK universities have great Student Support services and they are experts in helping students in your situation. Whether you are struggling with your coursework, financials or mental health - don't feel shy to ask, they will always be willing to help you.



“

When it comes to making friends in university, you just have to get out of your comfort zone and talk to people. It is important for your mental health that you do not isolate yourself from others.

”

Rabiyatu Aliyu Ahmed
International Foundation Year

Studying in the UK...

You are about to start the greatest adventure of your life and you want to know that you have chosen the right place. You already know the UK is where you want to go, but just in case you need more reasons to love it, here are a few examples to show you why you couldn't have chosen a better study destination.



Culture in the UK

The UK is a multicultural country. As well as getting to know the British culture and drink countless cups of tea you will benefit from learning from many other cultures as interesting as this one. A great way of getting in touch with different cultures is by eating, so don't be shy and try to have a taste of as many cuisines as you can, you won't regret it! Be open minded and chat to people and fellow students; it is amazing what you can learn from others and how that changes your perspective about the world.





If you feel like making friends could be difficult while you are away, you don't have to worry about that in the UK, as it happens to be a very welcoming country. You will have endless opportunities to make friends at university and at your accommodation. Exploring the city and the country in good company will be more fun and will add to your international study experience.

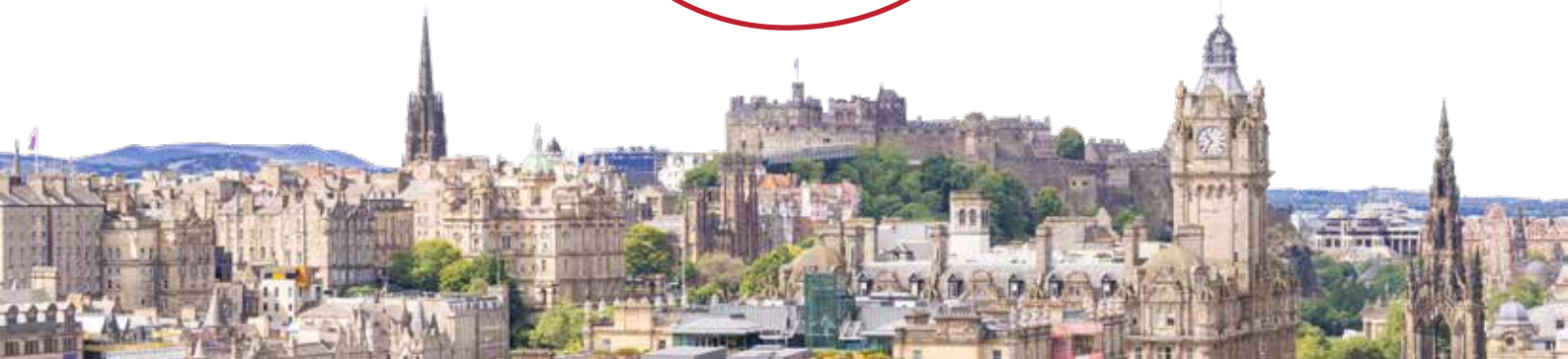


One of the most attractive things about the UK is that it caters for everyone. Whether you like museums, art galleries, music or nature, there is always something going on in your city and surroundings. The UK is famous for music and home to amazing bands like The Rolling Stones, Queen, The Beatles, Joy Division, The Smiths, and many more! You will be able to find live gigs in your city or go to every museum as most of them are free. If you ever get tired of the busy city lifestyle, get a train or a bus to the countryside and explore the fantastic landscapes that the UK has to offer.

Explore the fantastic landscapes



plus much more!



Useful Weblinks

✓ About NCUK university locations - www.ncuk.ac.uk/study-abroad

✓ UK International Student Support
- The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)
- www.ukcisa.org.uk

✓ About studying in the UK
- British Council - www.study-uk.britishcouncil.org

✓ Getting your student visa - www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa

✓ Student discounts & offers - www.studentbeans.com/uk, www.nus.org.uk, www.myunidays.com/GB/en-GB

✓ Events in the UK - www.visitengland.com/things-to-do/events, www.ticketmaster.co.uk

Useful links and Contact Details

Important contact numbers

999 – Emergency (police, fire, ambulance)

112 – Emergency (UK Mobile)

111 – Non-emergency for health

101 – Non-emergency for police

Should you ever find yourself in need of help, these are the numbers to call!

NCUK's top tips to studying in the UK



MOBILE PHONES

Get a local SIM card rather than using your home phone number; they are affordable and easy to find. This is also something that the International Office can help you with. Most of these phone plans will include an internet allowance, which allow you to use Skype and other internet call services. Make sure you double check the cost of international calls to avoid any issues with your phone bill and use WIFI when possible.



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Contact your accommodation to see what household items and kitchen supplies are already provided; some accommodation sites have starter kits that you can purchase on arrival. Some of the most popular places to buy household related items in the UK are The Range, Wilko's and IKEA.



STUDENT DISCOUNT & OFFERS

As a student in the UK, you will have access to thousands of offers and discounts, exclusively for students! From travel discounts to freebies in shops, there are so many ways to save money in the UK.

Check out: www.studentbeans.com/uk | www.nus.org.uk | www.myunidays.com/GB/en-GB



INTERNATIONAL GROCERY STORES

Plenty of UK supermarkets have international sections where you will be able to find foods and drinks from your home country. Many cities also have international grocery stores where you can do your weekly shopping and purchase local foods.



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**If you have any questions
please feel free to
get in touch!**

Email: student@ncuk.ac.uk

Phone: 0161 306 5282

www.ncuk.ac.uk/studyabroad



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