



Predeparture Guide 2020



BEST OF LUCK!

Going to study in the UK is an exciting experience and we know that you will have many questions. This guide is designed to help answer some of your questions and provide you with information that should be useful throughout your time in the UK.

The information in this guide should be read alongside any pre-departure materials and emails you receive from your university. Please be sure to follow any instructions that your university gives you in its guide.

In addition to pre-departure materials, all our university partners offer introductory orientations for international students at the beginning of term. These programs will introduce you to the campus, your department, other students and the local area. We encourage you to participate in these programs, as they are a great opportunity to meet other students and will help you settle in and adjust to life in the UK. International student advisors at your university will be available throughout your studies to listen to your concerns and give you advice on a wide range of issues. If you find yourself experiencing any problems whilst in the UK, please don't hesitate to contact your university's International Office, as they will be happy to assist you.

We hope you find the information in this guide helpful – please do let us know if you have any additional queries.

Best of luck with your studies in the UK!
We hope you have a brilliant time!

Sincerely,

The Across the Pond USA Team





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on any of the following links to be taken directly to that section.

ACCOMMODATION

YOUR FIRST WEEKS IN THE UK

Arriving in the UK
Registration
Banking in the UK
Healthcare
Dentistry
Contents Insurance

LIVING IN THE UK

Electricity
Water
Postal Service
Telephone Service
Smoking
Tipping
Travelling within the UK
Television License
Council Tax
Shopping
Food

Clothes
Safety and Security
Other Essentials
Working in the UK
Sports in the UK

STUDYING IN THE UK

Registration
British Higher Education
Teaching & Learning
Methods of Assessment

PACKING FOR THE UK

UNIVERSITY PREDEPARTURE INFORMATION

TRAVELLING ABROAD WHILE ABROAD: A BRIEF GUIDE

USEFUL WEBSITES

YOUR ADVENTURE

Let's start by stating the obvious: you are about to begin one of the most transformative and challenging adventures of your life so far. Whether you've studied abroad in the past or are new to living overseas, your trusted student advisors have taken care to put together this handy pre-departure guide based on our own experiences living as international students in the UK.

We've assembled this to be a helpful resource you can print off and keep within reach whenever you have a question (especially those questions you feel silly asking!). Some bits of information will be more relevant to you than others — that's how we've designed it. This is everything we would've liked to know before we skipped across the pond ourselves! We want you to be prepared, and that's why the most useful bit of advice we can give you is this: do everything you can to get things in order so your trip abroad goes smoothly, but be prepared to be surprised. And what is an adventure without some surprises?

This guide is intended to supplement the information your selected university will provide you in the weeks before your departure. We want you to be prepared, but remember to leave some flexibility in your plans for the unexpected. This is your international adventure story, and it's completely unscripted. Learn what you can from those who have gone overseas before you, but take hold of the time you have in the UK. Live in the present. Be prepared for the unexpected moments. They'll likely turn out to be your fondest memories.

Right. Now to the serious, less inspiring stuff.

My degree was worth every penny spent. Not a day goes by that I don't think about or feel thankful for my year in England.

Alex D.



Never in a million years could I have imagined that I'd be studying for my master's degree in London, and yet here I am!

Celisa W.



Being surrounded by unique people from various countries around the world, with different stories to tell, life experiences, and backgrounds have helped me gain new perspectives on life.

KeyAna W.



Establishing amazing and lasting friendships with people from all over the world is something I will cherish forever and often reflect upon.

Clairre C.