



Once you have completed your application, hopefully received the offers you wanted and accepted where you would like to study, there are a few things to think about to be prepared for university.

### Things to do before arriving at university

- **Accommodation** - You will only need to think about accommodation for your firm (first) choice university, who should contact you to inform you of the options and how to apply. Many universities offer a variety of accommodation including halls of residence or private accommodation.
- **Student ID card** - You will receive a student ID card for university and you may have to apply for this in advance.
- **Funding** - You need to have applied for your student finance from the government by the end of May to guarantee funding for the start of term. If you have not, complete this process as soon as possible and be prepared to cover the costs until your money arrives. If you are eligible for a university bursary or scholarship, make sure you have applied in time.

If you have not received any of this information or are having problems, contact the university for guidance.

### What to look out for in your first weeks

The first week at university is referred to as Freshers' Week and you will not have any lectures. Freshers' Week is there to help you settle into university, become familiar with the campus, finalise any admin and make some friends. There are a few things you should look out for during your first week:

**Enrolment** - All students need to enrol onto their course to confirm attendance. Once you have enrolled, student finance will be notified and you will process your funding. Remember that you need to enrol for every year you are at university.

**Induction** - There are often a variety of inductions, including how to use the library, help with study skills, disability support, careers, accommodation or budgeting. You should utilise these to make the most of your time at university.

**Course welcome** - There will usually be an opportunity to meet the other students on your course, probably through a welcome lecture from your course academics.

**Meet your tutor** - You will be allocated a tutor from your course, who will support you throughout university and often provide you with a reference once you leave. You can usually ask to change your tutor if required.

**Campus tour** - Some universities will offer campus tours to help familiarise you with your surroundings. It is well worth going on this to ensure you are aware of all the available facilities and their location.

**Freshers' Fair** - The Students' Union (SU) will usually put on what is called a Freshers' Fair. This allows you to find out about the clubs and societies you can join at university, employment opportunities, available support as well as finding out more about numerous local companies. There are usually lots of freebies at this event so it is worth attending.

**NUS Extra card** - Once you become a student, you can pay for an NUS Extra card, which is provided by the National Union of Students who provide a voice for all students. This will entitle you to discounts for a variety of shops, restaurants, travel and much more. For most students, they make the cost of the card back in no time.

### What to bring with you

If you will be living at university, think about what you will need and what will make the room feel like yours.

For all types of accommodation you should bring some kitchenware and food with you, but make sure you bring a lot more if you will be doing your own cooking. Some accommodation provides things like bed linen, but you may prefer to bring your own.

Make sure you have some essential study materials with you, such as pens and paper, any books you were told to read before the start of term (if applicable) and any other suggested materials (for example art materials or computer software). Not all courses require additional materials, so do not worry if you have not been asked this.

The majority of universities will have a shop(s) on campus, where you can buy groceries, stationary, art materials, books or university branded items. Arrive prepared though as you may not know until you get there what is available and when.

### Your Students' Union (SU)

The SU at your university will help to provide an active and varied social life, usually offering entertainment and opportunities to meet new people. As well as this, they usually help you to get involved in volunteering, sports and societies, to improve your study skills and even to find employment.

The SU is also there to help you get the most from your course and ensure that students are represented in university decisions. You may be able to get involved as a student representative for your course. The SU are the student voice and are a good point of contact to help you overcome any difficulties you are having.

At most universities the sports and societies are organised and run by the students. Getting involved could help you gain valuable skills on your CV as well being part of a group or activity you are interested in.

### Part-time employment

Some students need a part-time job to help support them financially whilst some look for employment to enhance their skills and CV. You should not work more than 16 hours a week otherwise you could compromise your studies, which is your main reason for being at university.

The majority of universities employ students to work in the bar, the cafe, as a course representative or as Student Ambassadors. Duties could include welcoming visitors to the university, working open days, giving campus tours, supporting visits to local schools/colleges, delivering student life presentations or office work. Universities understand that your studies come first and can be more flexible with your hours. Working for the university sometimes leads to employment after you graduate, such as an internship.

You may consider working in the local area. If you work for a chain company at home, consider transferring to the branch near your university to save you job hunting. If you are looking for local work, do this sooner rather than later as jobs fill up quickly with new students.

### Further information

There are several ways to get the answers to any further questions you may have. We are always happy to answer queries and we can be reached by either email or phone.

There are also a number of useful websites to look at too:

[nus.org.uk](http://nus.org.uk)  
[thestudentroom.co.uk](http://thestudentroom.co.uk)  
[moneysavingexpert.com/students](http://moneysavingexpert.com/students)  
[studentbeans.com](http://studentbeans.com)  
[thestudentroom.co.uk](http://thestudentroom.co.uk)

The Recruitment and Outreach team and their dedicated team of Student Ambassadors are here to help. See how we can work with you by contacting us today!

