



YOUR CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU START

There's a lot to remember when starting in HE so we've put together a useful checklist to help you take care of things like your everyday budget and knowing what to expect from your course.

KNOW YOUR FINANCES AND BUDGET

- Apply for your tuition fee and maintenance loan.
- Work out your budget for each week.
- Important: you may not have much rent to pay if you live with your parents, but remember other expenditures such as transport and parking, study materials and a budget for joining clubs/societies and socialising with new friends.

GET SOCIAL

- Check out the groups and pages on social networks that are especially for people like you starting new studies.
- Know what to expect from your academic study
- Find out more about your next chapter in studying by visiting the HE provider's website.

KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING

- Get a map of your university/college.
- Make sure you know where and when you need to be for your first day.
- Try to visit beforehand to gauge journey times and possible delays.
- Work out how long the journey takes during rush hour.
- Find out how much each journey costs or if you can buy multi-journey, monthly or annual tickets. Take this into account when you work out your budget.

CONSIDER CYCLING

- Work out the safest and quickest route – in the day and at night.
- Find the safest place to store your bike.
- Find out where the showers are, if any.
- Find out where the lockers are to store your gear.

READ YOUR JOINING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

- Check that you know where to go and when.
- Buy any relevant, essential course materials.
- Check your emails for any key information your HE provider shares with you.

CHECK YOUR EMAILS FOR ANY KEY INFORMATION THE UNIVERSITY SHARE WITH YOU

WHEN YOU START YOUR STUDIES

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO HELP YOU GET STARTED ON YOUR COURSE.

Register for your course

- This is often done online.

Meeting new people

- Check what events are happening before your classes start.
- Make a note of the events you would like to attend.
- Find out how to get to the event/s and work out how you will get home.
- Find out how much a taxi fare is if you miss the bus.
- Find out if there is anyone you can share travel with to keep costs down.

- If it makes you feel more comfortable, bring a friend who is not a student.
- Use Facebook and other social networking sites to connect with other new students.

Clubs and societies

- Higher Education (HE) providers have many clubs and societies and these are perfect for helping you to meet other students who share your interests. You can find out more about them all by attending your Fresher's Fair.

MAKE SURE YOU PUT ALL IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT DATES AND DEADLINES INTO YOUR CALENDAR.

DURING YOUR STUDIES GENERALLY

There's a lot to remember when starting in HE so we've put together a useful checklist to help you take care of things like your everyday budget and knowing what to expect from your course.

PLAN AHEAD

- Each day, make sure you have everything you need with you.
- Think about how you can use longer breaks between classes, wisely.
- Check any traffic reports and leave home earlier if there are any delays.

LEAVE EARLY – ARRIVE EARLY

- Spend your time until class starts by catching up on reading, drafting your next assignment or networking with other 'early birds'.

LET YOUR TUTOR KNOW IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE

- Sometimes there are problems with public transport or an accident causes lots of traffic. Your tutors will appreciate the heads-up – just don't make a habit of it.

TRAVELLING BY CAR?

- Check if anyone lives near you and car share to split the costs.

GOT LOTS OF STUFF? EXPLORE STORAGE OPTIONS

- Find out if there are lockers available.
- Find out if you know someone who lives on campus who could keep your stuff.

EXPLORE – WHAT ARE THE FACILITIES AND AMENITIES LIKE?

- Find out if there is a fridge where you can store food.
- Check out places where you can eat food you've brought yourself.
- Locate water fountains to refill your water bottle.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Find out about the many opportunities available:

- Part-time work on campus or work that you can do from home.
- Volunteering opportunities in the community.
- Flexible student jobs that could fit around your timetable.
- Leadership positions in a club or society.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE SUPPORT THAT IS AVAILABLE IN CASE YOU EVER HAVE A QUESTION OR EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES, WHETHER THAT'S THE STUDENT UNION, YOUR TEACHER OR STUDENT SERVICES.