Your UK Guide
What to do in your first week?

Not sure about any of the following? Ask the International Office at: international.office@hud.ac.uk

- Set up a bank account
- Check if you need to register with the police
- Manage your money
- Sort out your mobile phone – be careful with contracts
- Register yourself with the NHS (visit the University Health Centre)
- Understand your bills (Council Tax exempt)
- Queries with your accommodation? Contact D.I.G.S or the International Office
- Find out what events and trips are coming up
Understand your money

1p
One pence
Also known as a ‘penny’

2p
Two pence

5p
Five pence

10p
Ten pence

20p
Twenty pence

50p
Fifty pence

£1
One pound
Also known as a ‘quid’

£2
Two pounds
Also known as a ‘two quid’

£5
Five pounds
Also known as a ‘fiver’

£10
Ten pounds
Also known as a ‘tenner’

£20
Twenty pounds
Also known as a ‘twenty’

£50
Fifty pounds
Also known as a ‘fifty’
Transport in the UK

**Bus**
- Tell the driver where you are going and pay on the bus
- Weekly tickets – pay on the bus or online
- Try to use exact change and don’t pay with £10, £20 or £50
- Late at night – it is safer to avoid the top floor
- Press the bell on the bus before the stop you want

**Train**
- Cheaper if booked in advance
- Keep your ticket until exiting station of destination
- Book online, use ticket machines or buy at the ticket office
- Ask the ticket office about the 16-25 railcard – save up to a 1/3 off the standard ticket price

**London Underground**
- Pay for single or daily tickets, Oyster or contactless card
- Different lines in London have different colours
- tfl.gov.uk has up-to-date information for delays and travel plans

**Taxi**
- Often cheaper to pre-book
- Ask for a price before you book or travel
- Convenient to book with mobile apps
- Always check that the taxi is licenced
- Do not put your hand out on the road to stop a taxi
Culture Shock

What is it?
‘Culture Shock’ describes the impact of moving from a familiar culture to one which is unfamiliar. It is an experience described by people who have travelled abroad to work, live or study; it can be felt to a certain extent even when abroad on holiday. It can affect anyone, including international students. It includes the shock of a new environment, meeting lots of new people and learning the ways of a different country.

The weather
The weather can change quickly in the UK and people can find it difficult to adapt to these changes. It can rain a lot, so be sure to have a waterproof coat and an umbrella no matter what the season. Dress up warm in the winter months where the weather can get extremely cold and the sky gets dark much earlier.

The food
You may find British food strange at first. It may taste different, or be cooked differently, or it may seem bland or heavy compared to what you are used to. Try and find a supplier of familiar food, and eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables.

The language
People might speak quickly or with a strong regional accent, so you may find it difficult to understand. Don’t be embarrassed to ask somebody to repeat what they have said.

The behaviour
Social behaviours may be different to what you are used to, and you may find that people seem busy, distant or appear cold especially in the large cities.

You may be surprised to see public displays of affection, differences in what people wear and differences in same sex social contact and relationships. We are a very open nation, and it is important not to laugh, stare or point at things you may not be used to seeing.
British slang

Just when you thought you understood the English language, here are some popular slang words used in daily life...

“Dodgy”
Meaning something or someone is ‘untrustworthy’.

“Chuffed”
Meaning to be very ‘happy/pleased’.

“Fortnight”
Meaning ‘two weeks’.

“Gutted”
Meaning ‘saddened or devastated’ about a situation.

“Knackered”
Meaning ‘tiredness or exhaustion’ in any given situation.

“Mate”
Meaning a ‘friend’ but also used as ‘a friendly greeting’ in conversation.

“Naff”
Meaning something is rubbish or ‘not very good’.

“Okie Dokie”
Meaning another way to say ‘OK’.

“Sarny/Butty”
Meaning another way to say ‘sandwich’.

“Cheers”
Meaning to celebrate when toasting a drink, but also another way to say ‘thank you’.

“Cheerio”
Meaning another way to say ‘bye’.

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Do’s...

- Get involved with campus events/societies
- Get active, participate in class and make new friends
- Queue and respect it – it’s a British art form
- Respect animals and nature
- Respect everybody around you, and respect their opinions, personal space and privacy
- Respect equality – everybody should be treated the same regardless of race, disability, gender, sexuality or religion
- Pay attention to your surroundings, especially when crossing the road – remember we drive on the left

Dont’s...

- Swipe any other student card other than your own*
- Miss class – your attendance is monitored and very important*
- Spit
- Swear or use abusive language
- Throw rubbish on the floor
- Cross the road until the green man is displayed
- Smoking indoors or public places (cafes, restaurants, shopping centres – anywhere indoors)

* Visit http://hud.ac/dja for more information
Get to know your British dishes

- English breakfast
- Sausages (bangers)
- Fish, chips and mushy peas
- Coleslaw or cottage cheese with jacket potato
- Pie and mash
- Strawberries and cream
- Sunday roast
- Everything with a cup of tea!
Eat and drink – the rules

Tipping
Tipping is not a big custom in the UK but there are certain situations where it is regarded polite to do so. Restaurants are a prime example. Some restaurants will include a 12.5% service charge on the bill, so you need to check in order not to tip them twice.

Paying the bill
If you are invited out, generally the bill is split evenly between everybody there. Sometimes, the host will pay for everything – but not always. You are certainly expected to offer to pay your share.

Paying for drinks
When out for drinks with a group, it’s common for one member of the group to buy a drink for everyone (called a ‘round’). Once everyone has finished that drink, another person in the group takes a turn to buy everyone a drink. This will go on until everyone has bought a drink for everyone.

UK alcohol law
The law in England states that you have to be over 18 years old to buy alcohol from a pub, off-licence, supermarket or other outlet. If you look under 18 years of age then you will be asked for some ID with your date of birth written on it.
Keep calm... ...stay safe in the UK

The UK is generally a safe place with low levels of crime. But whenever you travel to a new country, it is vital you look after yourself.

Avoid displaying expensive items such as watches, jewellery or mobile phones in busy public places.

Try not to carry large amounts of money with you.

If you have lost a key or just moved into a new property, it is a good idea to change the locks after speaking with your landlord.

Stay safe whilst in the UK. Important contact numbers:

- 999 – Emergency (police, fire and ambulance)
- 112 – Emergency (UK Mobile)
- 111 - Non-Emergency for health
- 101 – Non-Emergency for police
Your first day in class

Sam
From China
“Read handbook of all modules carefully and make a timeline for each assessment.”

Nisa
From Bangladesh
“Read all of the module handbooks and look out for information about emails, Unilearn and assignments.”

Moses
From Nigeria
“Learn how to manage your time effectively and get to know your tutor.”

Olga
From Russia
“Have a positive attitude and don’t be afraid to ask questions.”
Supporting you...

Use the FREE support available to you on campus. Don’t be shy – it’s there for you!

**Accommodation**
Get support from the DIGS office (Ashenhurst/Storthes Hall) or ask the Students’ Union Advice Centre to check your contract before signing
- Visit us in the Schwann Building or Student Central

**Careers and Employability**
Get support with CVs, interview techniques, preparing yourself for work
- Visit us in Student Central

**International Office**
Immigration advice, tuition fees and guidance on living in the UK
- Visit us in Student Central

**iPoint**
Get help with student cards, certificates, letters and changing details
- Visit us in Student Central

**Students’ Union**
Get independent help and advice on University life and activities
- Visit us in Student Central

**University Safety Officer**
Visit the Safety Officer on campus for advice
- Ask at the iPoint for more details

**Wellbeing and Disability**
Homesickness, personal problems and advice
- Visit us at iPoint
Explore Huddersfield... and beyond

- Marsden Standedge Tunnel
- Castle Hill/Jubilee Tower
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- Huddersfield Town Football Club
- Harold Wilson statue
- Holmfirth
- National Coal Mining Museum
- Beaumont Park
- Knaresborough
- Haworth
- Chatsworth House
- Buxton
- Lake District
- Northumberland
- Whitby
- London
- Edinburgh
Important dates

**October**
- 31 October: Halloween

**November**
- 5 November: Guy Fawkes Night (Bonfire Night)
- 11 November: Remembrance Day
- 30 November: St. Andrew’s Day

**December**
- 25 December: Christmas Day
- 26 December: Boxing Day
- 31 December: New Year’s Eve

**January**
- 1 January: New Year’s Day

**February**
- 13 February: Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)
- 14 February: Valentine’s Day

**March**
- 1 March: St. David’s Day
- 11 March: Mother’s Day
- 17 March: St. Patrick’s Day
- 30 March: Good Friday

**April**
- 1 April: Easter Sunday
- 2 April: Easter Monday
- Bank Holiday
- 21 April: Queen Elizabeth’s Birthday
- 23 April: St. George’s Day

**May**
- 7 May: May Day Bank Holiday
- 28 May: Spring Bank Holiday

**June**
- 16 June: Trooping the Colour
- 17 June: Father’s Day

**August**
- 27 August: Summer Bank Holiday

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**Events in Huddersfield to look out for:**
- Huddersfield Food and Drink Festival
- Huddersfield Town Football Club
- Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival
- Holmfirth Festival of Folk
- Holmfirth Film Festival
- Holmfirth Duck Race
- Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival
- Marsden Jazz Festival
- Marsden Cuckoo Festival
- Emley Show
- Honley Show
- Meltham Memories: 1940s Wartime Weekend
- Moonraking Festival
Welcoming students for 175 years

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