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 DIGS or HudLets (Students union)
- 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

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

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
Culture Shock

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.
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 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 word 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’.

“S.*(meaning [a-zA-Z]+)“
Meaning ‘[a-zA-Z]+’.
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](http://hud.ac/dja) for more information
Get to know your British dishes
English breakfast

Beans on Toast

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 (Cuppa)!
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...

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 in the UK

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
Rumana
India
“Socialise with your classmates as much as possible. This will help you in the long run”

Nam
Vietnam
“Get involved by asking questions, and remember your course leaders are there to offer support and give advice during your course”

Babatunde
Nigeria
“It’s important to know your timetable and get to know your coursemates, this will help you integrate”

Silje
Norway
“Join societies, and be active. Having something for the off days really helps you focus”
Supporting you...

**Accommodation**
Get support from the DIGS office (Ashenhurst/Storthes Hall) or ask Hud Lets in the Students’ Union 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
Use the FREE support available to you on campus. Don’t be shy – it’s there for you!

**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...

- Marsden Standedge Tunnel
- Castle Hill/Jubilee Tower
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- Huddersfield Town Football Club
- Harold Wilson statue
- Holmfirth
- National Coal Mining Museum
- Beaumont Park
...and beyond

- 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
25 January: Burns Night

February
14 February: Valentine’s Day
25 February: Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

March
1 March: St. David’s Day
17 March: St. Patrick’s Day
22 March: Mother’s Day

April
10 April: Good Friday
12 April: Easter Sunday
13 April: Easter Monday Bank Holiday
21 April: Queen Elizabeth’s Birthday
23 April: St. George’s Day

May
8 May: May Day Bank Holiday
25 May: Spring Bank Holiday

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

August
31 August: Summer Bank Holiday

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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