

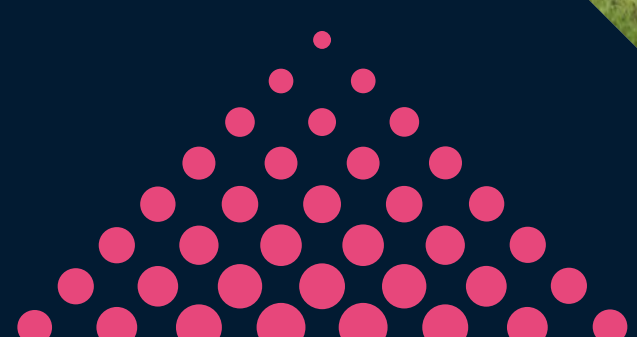


Leeds Trinity  
University



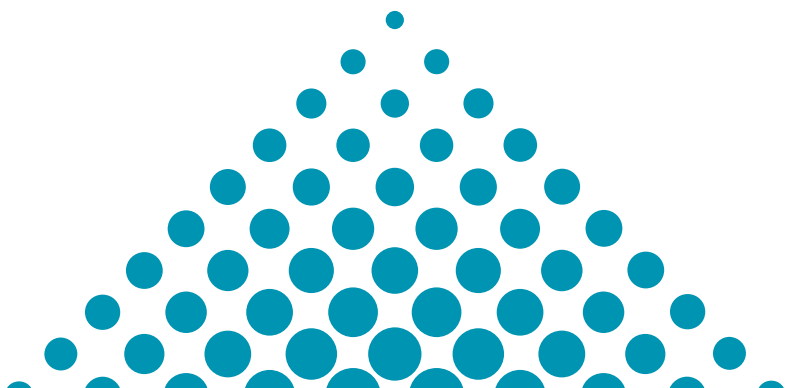
# WELCOME TO LEEDS TRINITY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT  
PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE 2023/24



# CONTENTS

<b>Useful checklists</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Mobile phones and Internet</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Welcome to Leeds</b>	<b>4</b>	Roaming charges	13
About the city	4	Wi-Fi	13
About Horsforth	4	Mobile providers	13
About Yorkshire	4	<b>Getting around</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Preparing for the UK</b>	<b>5</b>	Shuttle bus	14
Visa	5	Train	14
Healthcare	5	Bus	14
Medication	5	Taxi	14
<b>What to bring</b>	<b>6</b>	Tickets and travel passes	14
Important documents	6	Going further	14
Personal items	6	<b>Good to know</b>	<b>15</b>
Practical items	6	Etiquette	15
Money	7	Littering	15
Weather appropriate clothing	7	Queueing	15
Comfort items	7	Smoking	15
<b>Arriving in the UK</b>	<b>8</b>	Alcohol and drugs	15
By air	8	Vocabulary	15
By rail	8	Eating out	15
By sea	8	Tipping in a restaurant	15
Border crossing	8	<b>Shopping</b>	<b>16</b>
Travel to the UK	8	Household basics	16
<b>Accommodation options</b>	<b>9</b>	Fashion	17
Campus accommodation	9	VAT	17
Off-campus accommodation	10	<b>Religion</b>	<b>17</b>
Council tax	10	<b>Festivals and traditions in the UK</b>	<b>18</b>
TV licence	10	<b>Nightlife</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Banking</b>	<b>11</b>		
International credit card	11		
Opening a UK bank account	11		
Digital bank accounts	12		
Accessing money	12		
Working in the UK	12		
National Insurance (NI) number	12		
Taxes	12		



# USEFUL CHECKLISTS

## Checklist for fee-paying international students

- Accept your offer at Leeds Trinity University by completing and returning the Acceptance Form.
- Pay 50% of your first-year tuition fee.
- Apply for accommodation.
- Complete the Leeds Trinity CAS procedure and provide evidence of funds to Leeds Trinity's immigration partner (please refer to Post-Offer Guidance Notes for details) to secure Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).
- Apply for your student visa with the help of Leeds Trinity's immigration partner.
- Arrange your travel to the UK, arriving on time for International Student Orientation.
- Register on the course online (e:Vision).

## Checklist for visiting and exchange students

- Accept your offer at Leeds Trinity by completing and returning the Acceptance Form.
- Check if you need a visa and complete the student visa process above, if needed.
- Arrange your accommodation in Leeds.
- Arrange your travel to the UK, arriving on time for International Student Orientation.
- Complete provisional registration online (e:Vision).





# WELCOME TO LEEDS

We are delighted to welcome you to Leeds – a buzzing student-city in North England, which is also the administrative capital of the Yorkshire region.

## About the city

- Population:** ca 800,000
- Economy:** It is the main financial and business services hub outside of London
- Environment:** A green city with many parks
- Sports:** There is something for everyone including football, cricket, and rugby
- Vibe:** Young and vibrant with five universities
- Access:** Two hours by train to London, one hour to Manchester, three hours to Edinburgh. Area serviced by Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBA).

## About Horsforth

The Leeds Trinity campus is located in the leafy green suburb of Leeds called Horsforth. With around 20,000 inhabitants, Horsforth is considered a town in itself, and has often been voted as one of the best towns in England for quality of life. Horsforth's High Street has a nice blend of local businesses, charity shops, pubs and cafes and a supermarket. It is a relatively quiet area, so for a more vibrant culture and nightlife you can easily venture into Leeds city centre, just five miles from Horsforth – a quick eight-minute train or 15-minute taxi ride.

## About Yorkshire

Leeds is the modern-day capital of an historic county in Northern England called Yorkshire. Yorkshire is named after its historic centre – the fabulous medieval city of York, just a 30-minute train ride from Horsforth. York is home to York Minster, a 13th century cathedral, Tudor-era houses and medieval walls, and has more recently been used as a set for Harry Potter films.

# PREPARING FOR THE UK

We know that moving to another country can be daunting, so here are some tips to help you get ready.

## Visa

It is important that you make sure that you have the right immigration status for your activities in the UK. Start by checking if you need a visa on the UK Government website, [gov.uk/check-uk-visa](https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)

Remember that the UK is no longer part of the EU and freedom of movement between the UK and the EU has ended.

Most common visa routes are:

- Student Visa – for studies over six months. If you want to, you can also work or volunteer up to a maximum of 20 hours a week during term, however, your main reason for being here is to study.

You will have to pay NHS immigration surcharge and a visa application fee.

- Standard Visitor – only for studies under six months.

If you are from a country that normally does not require a visa to enter the UK for short term visits (e.g. EU, USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, Malaysia), you do not need to apply for a Standard Visitor Visa in advance. It is important that you keep evidence of your entry to the UK (such as stamp in the passport or boarding pass) and leave within six months of the date of entry.

## Healthcare

The UK has a nationwide universal access healthcare system, the National Health Service (NHS). As part of your Student Visa, you will pay an annual NHS surcharge which gives you access to free medical treatment (at hospitals and general surgeries), but requires payment for dental treatment, prescriptions, and spectacles.

Emergency and primary care (GP) is available free of charge for everyone, including students on a Visitor route. If visitors require hospital treatment or specialist care, this will have to be paid for. European visitors should always present an EHIC card when seeking medical care.

We recommend that all students register with a GP practice that is closest to their residence. For Leeds Trinity Halls, this is the **New Croft Surgery** in Horsforth. The University's free shuttle bus stops in front of the surgery.

**NHS 111**    **Need urgent medical care/advice**  
**999**        **Medical emergencies (ambulance)**

## Medication

If you are on regular medication, we recommend talking to your doctor before leaving for the UK to ensure that same medication is available via the NHS, and to identify possible alternatives and get this in writing so as you know exactly what the medication is that you may need in the UK. For critical medication you can ask your doctor to prescribe a three-months' supply to bring with you.

Please make sure that you have a full prescription with your name or a letter from your doctor with you when you enter the UK.

# WHAT TO BRING

When packing for your new experience, it may be easy to forget some of the essentials, here is a key list that may be useful to you to ensure your trip goes to plan.

## Important documents

- ✓ Your passport
- ✓ Your Offer Letter from Leeds Trinity
- ✓ Copy of travel insurance policy (if you have one)
- ✓ EHIC card if you are from EU/EEA
- ✓ Prescriptions for regular medications
- ✓ Driver's license if you have one (can be handy as a form of ID even when you do not intend to drive)
- ✓ Bank card
- ✓ Your original qualification certificates if you are on a student visa

**Make sure to pack these in your hand luggage!**

## Personal items

- ✓ Medications – we recommend bringing a supply of at least two months
- ✓ Glasses and/or contact lenses
- ✓ Toothbrush
- ✓ Basic toiletries (especially if you have to self-isolate on arrival)

## Practical items

- ✓ Laptop computer (we strongly recommend bringing your own device which you can use for accessing online content of your course)
- ✓ Mobile phone (see advice on mobile contract later in this document)
- ✓ Other electronic devices that you are used to, e.g., Kindle
- ✓ UK adapter(s) for electronic devices and electrical goods

In the UK, we use the type G power plugs and sockets. Electricity is the 230V meaning you may require an adapter in order to use electrical appliances that you bring with you. They are fairly priced and are available to buy from most larger shops when you arrive, but as you may need them before you have time to go shopping it is recommended that you bring at least one Adaptor with you in your luggage.

Electrical goods such as hair dryers are available to buy from local shops in the UK. However, you are welcome to bring anything with you which you feel you may need.

## Money

- ✓ We recommend that you bring a small amount of British Pounds (GBP) with you if you are not sure that you can use your foreign issued debit/credit cards.

The only currency accepted at the shops, retail outlets and restaurants is GBP. Most places accept either card or cash. However, smaller 'corner shops' (off license shops) may have a minimum spend in order to use your card.

Please be aware that there is often a charge on your foreign-issued bank card for transactions so these fees can rack up quickly.

Please do not bring large amounts of cash into the UK. Leeds Trinity cannot accept cash payments for tuition or accommodation fees.

Please refer to page 12 for more information on banking and finance in the UK.

## Weather appropriate clothing

The UK is well known for being a country with unpredictable weather. Often, you may find yourself enjoying the sunshine one minute, and getting soaking wet the next.

	January		July	
Average max temperature	6.4 °C	43.5 °F	20.4 °C	68.2 °F
Average min temperature	1.2 °C	34.2 °F	11.7 °C	53.1 °F

The best tip for staying comfortable in the ever-changing British weather is to wear layers.

You may need:

- ✓ Weatherproof coat with hood
- ✓ Boots or hiking shoes
- ✓ Warm hoodie or fleece

The University does not have a dress code for students. There are also no specific cultural norms that you should be aware of when choosing your clothing. There is a wide variety of clothing stores in Leeds, suitable for any taste and budget. So, you may choose to carry less and top up your wardrobe once you are here.

## Comfort items

Consider taking something that will help you beat homesickness. For example:

- ✓ Photo of your loved ones
- ✓ Favourite pillow or cuddly toy
- ✓ Religious and/or cultural symbols

If you live in Leeds Trinity Halls, we may be able to provide bedding and linen for the first couple of weeks, until you have a chance to buy your own.



# ARRIVING IN THE UK

## By air

Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA) is only three miles from the University campus. The airport has limited international connections to outside of Europe, but you can find convenient flights connecting in London or Amsterdam.

Manchester International Airport (MAN) has convenient direct train links to Leeds, with a journey time of around one hour and 15 minutes.

You can also fly to one of London's major airports, Heathrow or Gatwick but please bear in mind that you will have to make your own way to Leeds.

## By rail

Coming from mainland Europe via Eurostar is a great way to minimise the carbon footprint of your travel. You should be able to buy tickets to Leeds (LDS) as an end station but you will need to change trains in London.

## By sea

At least two companies operate passenger ferry services between ports in mainland Europe (Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Brugge) and the North-East coast of England (Hull and Newcastle). This may be the best option if you want to bring your car.

## Border crossing

We advise you to prepare for border crossing by looking at the latest information on the UK Government website, [gov.uk/uk-border-control](https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control)

Remember that Freedom of Movement between UK and the European Union has ended. All arriving passengers must have a valid reason for visiting the UK.

## Travel to the UK

It is important that you consult the information on the UK Government's website ahead of your travel to the UK.

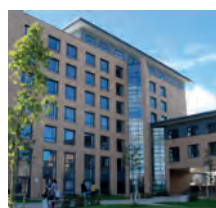


# ACCOMMODATION

## Campus accommodation

Unlike many universities, we own our accommodation and we have options to suit all budgets which is listed below in the cost comparison table.

Halls of residence	Rent weekly cost	Food allowances	Annual rent cost
En suite self-catering	£129-143	None	£5,160 - £5,720
Standard self-catering	£100	None	£4,000



### All Saints Court

Self-catered,  
en-suite, 198 beds  
Fee level £££



### Ripon Hall

Self-catered,  
44 beds  
Fee level £



### Fountains Court

Self-catered,  
en-suite, 228 beds  
Fee level £££



### Whitby Hall

Self-catered,  
44 beds  
Fee level £



### Trinity Close

Premium self-catered,  
en-suite, 84 beds  
Fee level £££



### St Albans Hall

Self-catered,  
44 beds  
Fee level £



### Kirkstall Hall

Budget self-catered,  
en-suite, 84 beds  
Fee level ££



### Norwich Hall

Self-catered,  
44 beds  
Fee level £

Contracts are typically for 40 weeks a year. Exchange and visiting students can usually have semester-long contracts but may be restricted to certain Halls. Some students live on campus all year round, so this may be available for international students. Please consult our Accommodation team on [accommodation@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@leedstrinity.ac.uk).

Bedding and bed linen may be included in the rental if you are an international student. This will save you from having to pack bulky items or buying them for short term. For further details, please contact the Accommodation office at [accommodation@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@leedstrinity.ac.uk).

Accommodation bookings are taken after you have confirmed your place at Leeds Trinity. Please be aware that not all types of accommodation may be available at the time of booking, so we advise applying as soon as possible.

## Off-campus accommodation

Usually only first year students live in the University Halls. Although a number of our students stay on campus for convenience after their first year, some second and consecutive year students often rent privately off campus.

Popular areas with lots of student rentals available include Headingley, Hyde Park, Woodhouse and Burley Park.

All these areas of Leeds have good links to the city centre and convenient bus and train connections to Leeds Trinity.

The most popular type of accommodation for students is multi-occupancy houses where you rent one private bedroom and share the kitchen, communal areas and bathrooms with other tenants. Privately rented studio flats are less common. Such properties are often available in newer buildings in the city centre and are normally more expensive.

If you are used to student housing in your country, please inform yourself about the quality, standards, and traditions around student rentals in the UK, as these may be different.

### Unipol

Unipol is a reputable non-profit charity for students looking for accommodation off campus.

Their **pink website** shows housing that is owned and managed by Unipol.

The **green website** combines all offers from private landlords and property providers.

## Popular websites

**Rightmove** – the UK's largest property website

**SpareRoom** – is a website for finding flatmates or renting one room

**AirBnB** – is a global house-letting website. You may be able to negotiate a good rate for longer stays if you're coming to Leeds for only one semester.

## Council tax

Households in the UK pay a tax for their local government services, such as social services, highways, and waste collection. Full-time students do not have to pay council tax. If you live with someone who is not a student, your household may need to pay the bill. For more information, visit the **gov.uk** website.

## TV licence

Households in the UK are, by law, required to pay a TV licence fee if they:

- watch or record programmes on any channel, as they're being shown on TV
- watch or stream programmes live on an online TV service (such as ITV Hub, All 4, YouTube, Amazon Prime Video, Now TV, Sky Go, etc.)
- download or watch any BBC programmes on BBC iPlayer.

More information on TV Licences, visit **gov.uk**

# BANKING

Planning how you manage your finances is an important part of preparing for studies in another country. We recommend that you do your own research as each situation is different.

## International credit card

If you are in the UK for less than six months, you will not be able to open a local bank account. We recommend that you research which accounts and cards you can obtain in your country which have the lowest charges for using in the UK. Have a look at digital-only banks which often offer better rates for currency exchange and lower charges for withdrawing money abroad. One such option is **Wise multi-currency account**.

VISA and Mastercard are accepted in almost all shops. Be aware that some international banking options such as Union Pay are not accepted in most places in the UK.

## Opening a UK bank account

If you will be studying within the UK for at least one year, you should be eligible to open a student bank account with a variety of banks in the UK. Sometimes basic current accounts with no overdraft facility are the only option for international students.

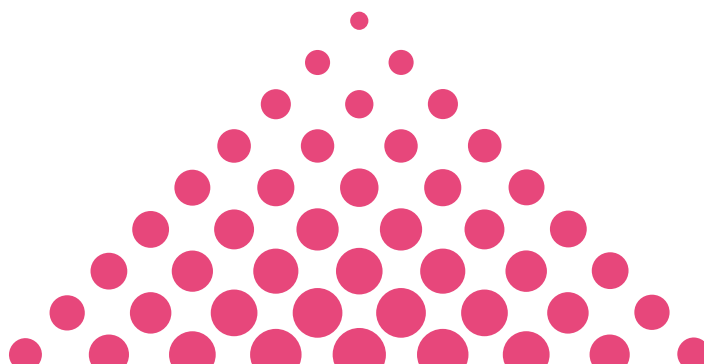
Most high street banks would ask for following documents:

- Proof of identity: Your passport or national identity card
- Proof that you are a student at Leeds Trinity: Some banks may accept an Offer Letter but it is usually best to print a 'bank letter' from your e:Vision account. You need to be fully registered to be able to do that.
- Proof of address: Your bank may want records of your address within the UK as well as your home address. You can use a tenancy contract or a utility bill with your name.
- Minimum deposit and fees: Your bank may also require a minimum amount that you must deposit into your account in order to open it. In some circumstances, you must also upkeep a minimum balance in your account also.

## Which bank do I choose?

There are a few banks on Town Street in Horsforth. We suggest you try to research the best option for your own situation. Features such as an overdraft, offers for graduates and free gifts (such as a student railcard), should all be considered before opening a bank account.

You could also try to find out if your regular bank is also represented in the UK. This would make opening an account even easier.



## Digital bank accounts

More people in the UK are opting for digital only banks. Depending on where you are, you may even be able to open a digital-only bank account before arriving in the UK.

Below are some more popular providers. Please make sure to check their terms and conditions carefully, to make sure that these banking solutions can meet your needs, and that they are regulated by a recognised financial regulatory body (e.g. the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in the UK).

- **Monzo**
- **Revolut**
- **Wise**
- **Monese**
- **Starling Bank**

### Accessing money

You will very rarely need cash these days. Almost all shops and services accept common debit and credit cards (VISA, Mastercard). All campus outlets also accept mobile payments with Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Cash machines (ATM) are still readily available across UK and there is normally no charge when withdrawing money from a UK bank account. Be careful with international bank cards as charges are often not displayed when using a cash machine.

There is one cash machine on the Leeds Trinity campus which charges for each transaction.

Please do not bring large amounts of cash with you to avoid banking charges. Leeds Trinity cannot accept tuition fees or accommodation payments in cash. Also, carrying cash is not safe and any sum over £10,000 has to be declared at the customs.

## WORKING IN THE UK

You will need to ensure that you are legally permitted to work before undertaking any paid or unpaid (volunteer) work.

- Student Visa – you are normally permitted to work or volunteer for up to a maximum of 20 hours per week during term time.
- Standard Visitor Visa – you are a short-term visitor (six months or less) and you are not permitted to work or take up volunteer work.

### National Insurance (NI) number

Before you can start work you will need to register for a National Insurance number (NI) for more information go to **gov.uk**

You can apply for a NI number if you live in the UK and have the right to work in the UK.

You must also be looking for work or have an offer to start work in the UK. If you have already started working you can still apply.

### Taxes

Students are liable for income tax and National Insurance (NI) in the same way as other workers. The good news is for those of you that you are entitled to work you are entitled to earn a certain amount before you start paying tax – this is called your Personal Allowance. You can get information on the current allowances on the **gov.uk website**.



## MOBILE PHONES AND INTERNET

Staying connected is important when you are away from home. Below are some tips for finding the best options for your communication needs.

### Roaming charges

If you want to use your phone that you bring with you from home, please make sure you are aware of the cost of using the phone in the UK. While a lot of providers do not apply any roaming charges between EU countries and the UK, it is no longer governed by EU legislation so companies can apply high charges at short notice. It may be wise to switch off data roaming on your mobile phone when you land in the UK.

### Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is available across the University campus. You can also connect to free Wi-Fi networks in most cafes and restaurants.

Most student accommodation providers include bills such as internet/Wi-Fi connection in the rental price. High speed Wi-Fi is also available without extra charge in the University Halls.

### Mobile providers

It is often easiest and quickest to register with a sim-only mobile provider. You will have to use the sim card that is sent to you, and you will get a local mobile phone number. These deals do not come with a handset and there is no contract.

With sim-only deals you can choose a plan (data, calls, and texts) that works best for you, and you pay the monthly fee for the package upfront. There will be no unexpected bills. You can switch between different plans and can always choose a better deal without being tied to a contract.

While most plans include unlimited calls and text messages to UK phones, there are often relatively high charges for international calls. **Lebara** is popular with international students as it includes free minutes to international phone numbers.

# GETTING AROUND

Horsforth in general is a relatively small and easy town to get around, so walking is definitely an option.

## Shuttle bus

Leeds Trinity runs a free shuttle bus service between the University and Horsforth train station to other amenities in Horsforth, such as the supermarket and doctors surgery. The shuttle bus operates only during term-time, Monday to Friday, and you do not need to book a seat.

## Train

Horsforth station (on Leeds-Harrogate-York line) is just a 10-minute walk down the street from the University. Travel to Leeds takes around 15 minutes and there are normally two trains an hour.

Download the Trainline app to buy tickets and see train timetables and live updates.

## Bus

First Bus Leeds operates a regular bus service no 27 between the University and Leeds city centre. Bus stops are on Brownberrie Lane in front of the main entrance. Travel time to Leeds is around 30 minutes, depending on the traffic. You can buy tickets on the app or with a contactless card on the bus. Cash is not accepted on the bus.

## Taxi

The easiest way to get a taxi is via the Uber app or other similar service. Prices for taxi services in the UK are reasonable, so this may be a good option if you're traveling with friends and late at night.

Arrow Cars taxis are stationed nearby at Leeds Bradford Airport, so this is a good option when other services are busy.

## Tickets and travel passes

If you travel frequently, it is often better to buy a weekly or monthly travel passes rather than single tickets.

**mCard** – use for travel across all West Yorkshire, both by bus and train

**First Bus mTicket** – buy single tickets, day tickets, weekly and monthly passes on the app.

## Going further

If you want to explore other parts of the UK or Europe, have a look at some tips below:

- Train tickets to destinations like London and Edinburgh can be expensive. Always plan ahead and buy an Advance ticket which can be several times cheaper than buying the ticket on the day.
- If you travel frequently, you might benefit from buying a National Railcard – a discount card that gives great discounts on regular rail fares across the UK.
- A cheaper but slower option is to travel by coach. National Express and Megabus are the main providers and have services to many parts of the country.
- Several low-cost airlines fly from Leeds Bradford airport to various destinations in mainland Europe.

# GOOD TO KNOW

This section includes some basic knowledge of life in the UK as well as some advice which you may wish to consider when travelling here. Etiquette advice may especially be useful as some aspects may seem different to what you are used to.

## Etiquette

An almost 'unspoken rule' within the British society is the idea of being polite when speaking to others. When speaking to shop owners or asking for something from a stranger, it is implied that you should make a point of saying 'Please' and 'Thank you' as a way of showing respect. Equally big emphasis is put on punctuality. It is considered rude to be late and you will earn the disapproval of a typical Brit if you do not arrive on time, both if meeting a friend or attending a formal event.

## Littering

You should know that it is a criminal offence to drop litter on the street or in any public area, such as a park or a field. Despite this, a large number of people still choose to do so, however it is strongly advised you do not, and ensure you dispose of your litter correctly. Most places have access to rubbish bins which are placed all around town centres and parks.

## Queueing

This may seem like an odd aspect to mention but waiting for your turn in an orderly queue is a norm in British society and if you do not want to earn angry looks and disapproval, you should always identify who is the last person in the queue and stand behind them. Queueing is common at bus stops and outside of bars, restaurants, and night clubs. Inside the pubs, however, people normally do not form lines but make their way to the bar counter, you should still wait for your turn to be served. Jumping the queue is seen as seriously disrespectful to others.

## Smoking

Similar to most countries, smoking or even the use of vapes and e-cigarettes are not allowed on all public transport, indoor public spaces, in taxis or even in a car whilst travelling with a minor under 18 years old. On campus you can only smoke in the designated smoking shelters outside.

## Alcohol and drugs

The legal drinking age in the UK is 18. It is illegal to buy or offer alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. Pubs and drinking is considered a major part of the culture in the UK, however 20% of the population does not drink at all. Possession and supply of any drugs, including cannabis, is illegal and can result in prosecution.

## Vocabulary

Depending on where you come from it may be worth knowing that the UK is considered a high-context culture. This means that words alone often do not express the meaning. For example, it is highly unusual to hear direct criticism of your work from lecturers or peers and you should tune into the 'hidden' meaning.

## Eating out

There are many types of places to eat in the UK from fast food takeaway restaurants and burgers to the traditional British fish and chips as well as more formal restaurants where you can enjoy sitting down and being served at your table. In the UK you will find a variety of restaurants from around the world. Many restaurants require you to book a table in advance but there are also a lot of restaurants that you can just turn up and get a table whenever you want one.

## Tipping in a Restaurant

It is customary to leave 10 to 15% of the bill when eating out in a restaurant. However, restaurants often add on a service charge (usually 12.5%), especially if you're in a large group, so it's worth checking your bill if you don't want to tip twice.

# SHOPPING

## Groceries

The UK is home to a wide variety of supermarkets, most of which you will be able to find on the high street. Despite Leeds and Horsforth being a reasonably well priced area, it is helpful to be able to distinguish which shops are best in suiting your budget.

- The most popular supermarkets in the UK include Tesco, Asda, Morrison's, Sainsbury's as well as Aldi and Lidl (and even Marks & Spencer or Waitrose depending on location). While these are what you can usually find on the high street or nearby, the prices vary massively depending on which you choose to buy from.
- The cheapest options include Aldi, Lidl, and Asda, all proving to show the best value for money on all essentials.
- Larger supermarkets are normally cheaper than the same products in the smaller express or convenience stores, even if it is the same brand (e.g. Tesco superstore vs Tesco Express).
- The only large supermarket in Horsforth is Morrisons on Town Street. It is around a 20 minute walk from the campus, or you can take the shuttle bus.
- Tesco Express on Station Road is open Monday -Sunday from 6.00am – 11.00pm.
- You will also find basic food items in the Students' Union Shop on campus.
- For international food items which are not available in regular supermarkets, we recommend visiting Leeds City Market.
- You can also arrange home delivery from most major supermarkets. However, a minimum spend on each order may apply. You may need a UK issued bank card and UK phone number to order online with home delivery. Another alternative is Amazon Fresh if you have Amazon Prime.
- If you need to self-isolate on arrival, you can arrange a basic food kit to be delivered to your room via **UniKitOut**.

## Household basics

When you first arrive in the UK, you may need to buy items that are too bulky to bring with you. Here's some tips on where to get the basic items for your household:

- The best value for all household items can be found in stores such as **Wilko**, **HomeBargains**, and **B&M**. There is also **IKEA** in Leeds, but it is not well-connected by public transport.
- Larger supermarkets also sell household items, so you can find most of the basics you will need in Morrisons in Horsforth.
- If you want to shop responsibly, you may also want to consider taking a tour of the many second-hand shops (known as charity shops). There are some on the high street in Horsforth and many more in Headingley and Kirkstall. Oxfam in Headingley and Cancer Research in Kirkstall stock many second-hand electrical and kitchen items, bedsheets and more.
- If convenience is important to you, you can also buy full sets of supplies from **UniKitOut** and have them delivered by the time you arrive.



## Fashion

- Students in the UK do the majority of their clothes shopping online. The biggest clothes brands all offer convenient home deliver and returns. Here is a list of popular online stores, **Top 10 online fashion retailers for students - Save the Student**
- Leeds city centre has excellent shopping opportunities. **Trinity Shopping Centre** combines many top brands from H&M to Apple. It also has Primark – a low-cost clothing brand which does not sell online. For more high-end brands, visit **Victoria Gate Shopping** where you'll find options from UK department store John Lewis to luxury labels such as Louis Vuitton.
- The UK has a well-developed second-hand clothes market with many charity shops on the high street and active trading on online sites such as Facebook Marketplace, eBay, Gumtree etc.

## VAT

VAT is an acronym for Value Added Tax and was introduced in the UK in 1973. It is a tax that is applied to the purchase price of certain goods, services and other taxable supplies that are being bought and sold within the UK. It is consistent with, but now distinct from, the system of VAT that operates within the European Union. You will not usually notice it as it is mostly added to goods before you purchase them.

If you are leaving the UK with high priced items, you may be able to claim the VAT back. Keep your receipts and declare them at Customs before leaving the UK.

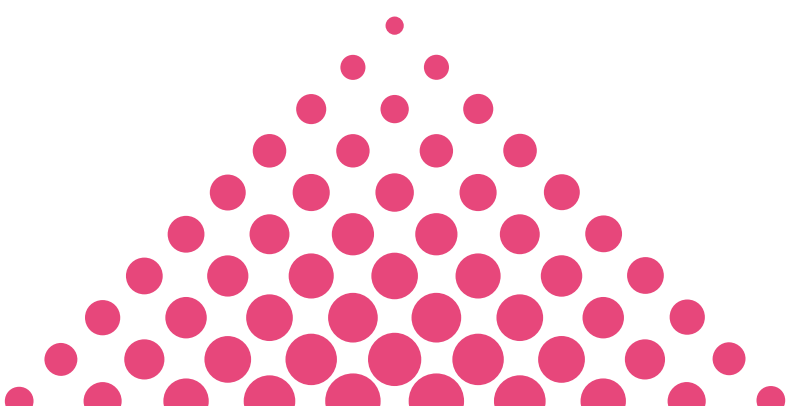
# RELIGION

As a multi-faith society, students of all religions can expect to feel welcome in the UK, along with plenty of places to practise their faith. With a history of multiculturalism dating back hundreds of years, we have well-established communities representing all major religions, and a deep commitment to supporting students' religious needs on campus.

Many people in the UK choose to wear their items of religious dress every day (such as turbans, hijabs and yarmulkes) and to observe religious festivals, such as Christmas, Eid, Diwali or Hanukkah. As a tolerant country you are free to choose exactly how you want to integrate your faith into your life.

## Leeds Trinity Chaplaincy

Our campus has a multi-faith prayer space, and a Chapel that is open every day for you to use for your own personal prayer and reflection. The Chaplaincy team coordinates a programme of activities, including a regular Mass, daily silent Adoration, student-led sung worship, personal retreats, and more.





# FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS IN THE UK

Like most countries, the UK has festivals and traditions that we like to enjoy and share with others, the most popular are highlighted below. We also enjoy celebrating other people's festivals such as Diwali and Chinese New Year. Outside of Asia, the world's biggest celebration of Chinese New Year is in London's China Town.

## Bank holiday

The term 'bank holiday' is used in the UK for public holidays that are generally established by law. A Bank holiday is a non-working day. There are eight bank holidays spread across the year.

## Easter

This is a religious celebration but everyone in the UK enjoys this time of year as it marks the beginning of Spring. There are two bank holidays - Good Friday and Easter Monday. Families get together for meals and celebration and give presents of chocolate-decorated easter eggs to children and family and friends. You will see easter eggs on sale in shops from just after Christmas.

## Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night is on the 5th of November every year. This is a tradition of firework displays in all towns and cities in the UK on or around this night. Wrap up warm and go out and enjoy the displays around the area. This tradition goes back hundreds of years to celebrate the anniversary of Guy Fawkes' failed plot to blow up the House of Lords and King James I in 1605.

## Christmas

Christmas, although a religious time, is a big celebration in the UK, celebrated by most people in the UK whether they are religious or not. The build-up starts weeks before with Christmas markets, parties, trees, presents and mince pies taking centre stage through most of December. Christmas Day (25 December) itself is a bank holiday, as is the day after, Boxing Day (26 December), when many people spend time with friends and family.

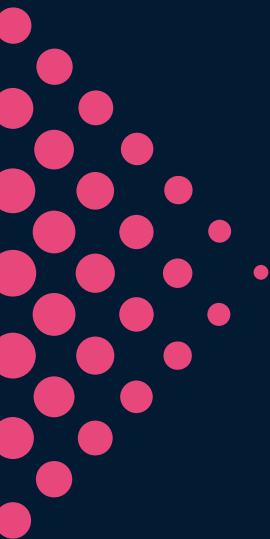
# NIGHTLIFE

The unofficial capital of Yorkshire, Leeds has it all – a rich sporting heritage, legendary nightlife, and incredible shopping.

Add one of the UK's largest student populations and thousands of graduate opportunities and you've got a city that's made for student life – the perfect place to build your future.

You're never too far away from your next adventure when you study at Leeds Trinity University. Our website has a lot more information on the Student Life while you are studying with us:

**Leeds and Horsforth - Student life - Leeds Trinity University**



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