

A photograph of a historic red brick building with a dark tiled roof and a prominent stone gable. In the foreground, several students are walking, their figures blurred to convey a sense of movement. A large red arrow points from the text area towards the building's entrance.

All links in this document
are clickable

> *University life*

> *Great accommodation*

> *Amazing opportunities*

> *Your future*

Your
*guide to life at the
University of Leeds*



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Preparing you for a bright future

*Leeds is a great place
to live and study
join us and you'll see
for yourself*

> A WARM WELCOME

*Now is a very exciting time,
a time when you are making
decisions that will change the
rest of your life.*

Leeds is full of possibilities and we'd love to welcome you to our University. We are very proud of our students and what they go on to achieve – from NASA astronauts to the Director-General of the International Red Cross, and the bass player of the Kaiser Chiefs to a cartoonist for *The Guardian*. Our graduates can be found all over the world, doing all sorts of things – newspaper editors, entertainers, entrepreneurs, politicians, policy makers – the list goes on. This is your chance to join over 30,000 students, plus a global network of graduates, and experience the most inspirational, challenging and rewarding time of your life.

This guide covers everything you need to know to prepare for university and joining us at Leeds – from making the transition from school/college to university and how Leeds can help you, to top tips from current students on finding the best accommodation. You'll also find out about settling in, clubs and societies, making friends and much, much more.

Written by our students, for students

In compiling this magazine we asked a number of current students and recent graduates, the ones who really know what it's like and how you'll be feeling right now, to comment on different aspects of university life and how they have found their time at Leeds. This guide gives you an idea of their journey.

Jenny Stephenson
International Development with
International Relations

“Leeds has everything! Take advantage of this, you'll regret it when you come to leave if not! The University itself has a huge range of societies; you'll find yourself signed up to practically everything during Freshers' week but try and stick to one or two, even if it's just for the socials!”

> UNIVERSITY LIFE



Coming to university is exciting and for some it can be daunting, but there's no need to worry. It is very different to school or college, but here at Leeds we offer you all the support you need to settle in, enjoy those first few weeks and really get the most out of your first year.

Transition to university

'Independent learning' is a phrase we use to describe the style of learning that we will be helping you to develop as you progress through your studies with us. You will be supported by your tutors as you begin to gain the confidence to use your initiative and take greater control over the way you work. For example, you will get tuition and guidance in finding and using the resources that interest you, and you will be encouraged to discover the ways of working, both on your own and with others, which help you make the most of your interest in, and passion for, the subject you are studying. This is one of the most important things you will learn whilst at university, it gives you the confidence and the ability to think for yourself.

Benefit from a research-based learning environment

At Leeds, you will be learning in a research environment alongside academics and other students who are as passionate about their subject as you are. There is research happening here on campus that is having real impact all over the world. This not only means you will gain a respected degree from a university renowned for its excellence, but also that your teaching will be based on vital, current research, by staff at the cutting-edge of their field. You'll be trained as an independent thinker and problem solver, skills that are highly valued by employers.

Nigel Foster, Arup (a global consulting and engineering business which regularly employs our graduates)

"Academic qualifications are not the only differentiating factor, desire to continually develop skills and broaden experience is vital, flexibility of approach and thought are essential in a fast changing world, being able to communicate well is a key skill and relationships are invaluable."

Support and guidance to help you

- **Your school or department induction** will make you feel welcome and help you make the transition to university life
- **Study support** the library and IT inductions will help you make the most of these crucial services to support your studies
- **Students' Union** including Intro Week, the Student Advice Centre and Student Activities
- **Student support services** from counselling and the chaplaincy to wellbeing
- **Equality service** providing practical support for all staff and students
- **Careers support** includes the Careers Centre and the Graduate Careers Network.

> I remember
my personal tutor asking if I was eating enough fruit & veg!

The student perspective

Natalie Blackburn
French and German, graduated June 2011

Natalie says

"The difference between school and university was clear from the start; it's your own responsibility to do the reading and there are no detentions for not doing your homework! I found it to be quite a jump from A-level to university level, but there are a lot of resources to help with academic writing, referencing, etc. Your personal tutor is always a good contact if you're struggling with anything, personal or academic. I remember my personal tutor asking if I was eating enough fruit & veg!"

Richard Mellor
Theoretical Physics, graduated June 2011

Richard says

"Coming to university was quite a daunting experience for me... but my mum and dad didn't hear from me for about 7 days after they dropped me off at halls – that tells you all the answers to my worries! The great thing about being on a campus like Leeds with a large, diverse population is that you can always find people who share your interests, like the same kinds of music or show you how to cook!"

"Academic work at university is different to school or college. You have a lot more freedom to learn in a way that suits you and can study what you want, but there is no shying away from the fact that it's challenging. It's only when you leave education that you realise you'll have to face these kinds of challenges day in day out."

Top tips

Benjamin Schonewald
English Literature & Language

"Make connections with people early on, take the time to acclimatise yourself to your school, and to the library. Explore the Union, and start some of your work in Freshers' week, so that you have time to socialise in the weeks ahead."

Simon Bressanelli
Chinese

"Be open to new people and new experiences. Be willing to try new things, you might find yourself appreciating something that you never even considered before."

Sarah McCarthy
English, graduated June 2011

"The University website is a great source of information and really helps to clarify things such as registration, electives and accommodation. The Freshers' fair at the Union is brilliant too, as you get a chance to see all the different things available to be involved in!"



> A HOME AWAY FROM HOME



Coming to university is also about choosing a new home – and we know it can be a scary prospect. That's why, at Leeds, we guarantee University accommodation for your first year, as long as you apply by the deadline of 1st July.

Take a look at www.leeds.ac.uk/accommodation online for more information including photos of the accommodation on offer.

Most students go into private rented accommodation in the second year and there is plenty of help and support available via UNIPOL Student Homes.

What makes the University of Leeds' accommodation special?

- **Excellent facilities and socialising** – from common rooms to on site gyms, music practice rooms, bars, cafés, picnic areas and more besides. Every residence has a committee, which you can be part of, to organise events on or off site – from barbecues and pub quizzes to day trips and balls!
- **Safe and secure** – every residence has a warden and we have a 24-hour security service. Sub-wardens, at all our larger residences, are on duty out of office hours to help with any urgent problems
- **Inclusive membership to The Edge** – our fantastic £12.2m fitness, sport and wellbeing facility in the heart of campus
- **Choice of catered or not** – choose to cook for yourself or select catered accommodation – plus all our accommodation has fully equipped kitchens, even if you're in a catered residence

– **En-suite options** – over half of our accommodation is en-suite

– **Easy to pay and no hidden extras** – pay in 1, 3 or 9 instalments to make budgeting easier. You don't need to pay anything until you've moved in. The price you see includes everything including heating, lighting, hot water, food (if catered), insurance, internet access and sports club membership at The Edge.

> **86%**
of our residents would recommend University accommodation to a friend

WHERE DID YOU LIVE – AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?

On campus

Emma Pugh

“Ellerslie Hall: Being catered and on campus gives you so much freedom to enjoy your first year and all the new experiences available during that time.”

Headingley

Lewis Emmerton

“I chose James Baillie, largely due to its brilliant location, close to University and in the heart of the student community in Hyde Park. The best thing about it was that I had an en-suite and my bedroom was a good size.”

Near campus

Joe Thomas

“Montague Burton: I chose it because of the price, the proximity to campus, and because I wanted to try being as independent as possible by being self-catered. It felt like home straight away.”

Sadie Chetwyn

“In my first year I lived in Lupton Residences – at first I didn't like being so far away from uni and didn't enjoy the walk but in the end it was a godsend. We were like a mini community and the divide between university and home life was great.”

Sarah McCarthy

“I chose Oxley Residences. I wanted to be in self-catered halls that were off-campus. It was perfect as it was a good distance away from uni so I felt I had my own space, and it had a really inclusive atmosphere, not to mention a gym and 7 acres of land!”

City centre

Coral Major

“I lived in Clarence Dock Residences, right on the waterfront in the city centre. It's excellent for going out in town and shopping (though it might have not been so brilliant for my bank balance!)”



> MANAGING YOUR MONEY



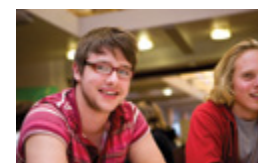
One of your key considerations is how you will manage your money whilst at university.

Leeds is one of the more affordable places to live compared with other areas of Britain, but you will still need to budget. To help with living expenses, many students decide to work part-time. Whilst this is a delicate balance, and your studies should always take priority, working can be beneficial – it not only puts money in your pocket but it also helps you gain valuable, professional work experience. Our Joblink service is a great resource and provides plenty of opportunities for part-time work in Leeds. You don't need to take our word for it...

Sarah McCarthy

English, graduated June 2011

"Joblink in the Union is a great resource for finding extra work whilst at uni, they offer everything from bar work, to being a student ambassador or being a primary or secondary school tutor. Having a part-time job whilst at university definitely helps with budgeting, and is a great way to practise time management. Joblink are good because they understand you are a student, and that your teaching commitments come first."



More student tips on managing your money

Natalie Blackburn

French and German, graduated June 2011

"I worked part-time throughout my degree in shops in the city centre. It was fairly easy to find work, as Leeds is such a big city. I usually worked a few short shifts a week, which fitted in around my lectures... Sharing food and eating with your flatmates can work out cheaper than cooking for one, and you can save money on transport by walking to university."

Joanna Souter

Mathematical studies

"I work a couple of shifts a week in a bar in the centre of Leeds. Having a job during the final year of my degree does mean I have to be extra conscious of how I manage my time, but also means I have less stress over money issues."

Richard Mellor

Theoretical Physics, graduated June 2011

"Once you've settled in, offer to cook for your housemates. Then, they'll feel obliged to cook for you in the future, and before you know it you regularly share responsibility for feeding each other. This allows you to spend less money on food by cooking in bulk. Leeds has a fantastic market on Kirkgate. Make it your 'go to' place for fruit, veg, meat and fancy-dress costume materials."

Simon Bressanelli

Chinese

"Always have a reserve of cash that you do not spend unless it's really, really necessary. Keep an eye on it all, it doesn't take much time but you can get a good idea of just how much you are spending. If you think you can take on a part-time job, definitely get one as soon as possible."

Help is available

The Student Advice Centre in the Students' Union has money specialists to give you help with all sorts of financial issues.

If you are eligible you may also receive funding to help with your finances while studying.

Kelly-Marie Bird (BA English Language and Literature, third year), received the Alex Jacques Scholarship – a Centenary Alumni Scholarship of £1,000 a year, solely funded by one of our alumni. Kelly-Marie received this based on annual income, academic achievement and proof of extra-curricular activity, before applying to university.

> Sharing food and eating with your flatmates can work out cheaper than cooking for one...



As well as studying and working, university is a time to make the most of your social life, and at Leeds, there are plenty of opportunities to do just that.

It is not all about work, the environment and community you work and study in is also important. Our undergraduates are with us for three or four years (or more if they study medicine) and so we feel it is important to create a vibrant community to make the time here stimulating, rewarding and enjoyable.

Bethany Parsons
Sports Science and Physiology

“My favourite thing about Leeds University is the Union! There was a real push to make it the best in the country, which it now is! It offers so much such as the 2 bars and 3 nightclubs, University shop, and food, as well as organising all the societies and offering support, spaces for meetings, practices, etc. It’s a real central hub for the University and only 10 minutes from town! However, The Edge is also a huge benefit to the University, with up-to-date sports equipment, and an amazing swimming pool!”



Melanie Ogden
Civil and Environmental Engineering

“I have been an active member of the snowsports society whilst at Leeds University as I am a keen skier. I have been on the University ski trip every year whilst at Leeds and have been fully involved in all the socials. I have also been vice president of the civil engineering society in my second year.”

Leslie Hough
Graduated 2010

“The Union is quite simply the best of its kind in the country. So much on offer, ranging from a games room to a newsagents, hairdressers and of course bars, the SU has it all, including the best place to be on a Friday night in Leeds – Fruity!”



*Focus on
the Union*

Making sure you love your time at Leeds is the Union’s number one priority – from providing support when you need it to all the extra-curricular opportunities you could wish for:

- **Clubs and societies** – from aviation to surfing, sky diving to street dance, and more sports clubs than any other university in the country
- from football and hockey to fencing, snowboarding and even ultimate frisbee
- **Student media** – award winning Leeds Student Newspaper, Leeds Student TV and Leeds Student Radio
- **Bars and clubs** – two bars plus an award-winning nightclub means there’s always something going on
- **Theatres and venues** – some of the best bands have played at the Union including artists as big and diverse as The Who, Katy B, James Blake, Ed Sheeran, Rizzle Kicks and La Roux. There are also theatre and dance performances all the way through term.

Mark Sowards
Communications and Internal Affairs Office at Leeds University Union

“Leeds University Union has a reputation for being one of the best in the country. When I first arrived here there was so much to get involved with, from clubs and societies, to representing fellow students, and the number of opportunities has only gone up since. It made my university experience, so much so that I actually ended up running the place!”



*Focus on
sport and fitness*

The University offers plenty of sporting activities, no matter what your level. So whether you’re at Olympic standard like Jonny Brownlee (current student) and Claire Cashmore (former student), or simply want to go at your own pace, you can exercise in our £12m gym.

- Excellent facilities including gym, pool and outdoor floodlit pitches and courts
- One of the largest Intra Mural (recreational sport) programmes of any university or college
- Over 60 sports clubs which range from cycling to subaqua and basketball to sailing
- A chance to compete regularly at the highest levels in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) leagues (Leeds was ranked 14th in the country last season)
- Over 125 exercise classes running each week
 - body attack and pump to Yoga and Zumba.

*Focus on
volunteering*

There are thousands of opportunities to volunteer whilst at the University – on campus or off, at home or overseas. Here, English Graduate Sarah McCarthy tells us about her experience:

“Whilst at university I was a member of ACTION, a volunteering charity. I volunteered at the annual Older People’s Tea Party, which has to be one of the best things I did whilst at Leeds. Volunteering whilst at university is such a great experience – not one to be missed!”

*Leeds
in a nutshell*

The campus
Compact campus ten minutes walk from the city centre.

The Students’ Union
Award winning – one of only three gold-rated students’ unions (Student Union Evaluation Initiative).

The University
Diverse – a wide range of subjects on one site and a multicultural environment, with staff and students from 142 different countries.

The city
Shopping, bars, restaurants, theatres, concerts, clubs and sports – what more could you want?

The culture
Friendly, multicultural city, one of only a few English cities outside London to have a repertory theatre, opera house and ballet companies and second only to London for its number of listed buildings.

> A YEAR OUT



The opportunities you get at the University of Leeds really are once in a lifetime. Many students choose to study abroad or take a year's work placement, both of which are fantastic experiences and really enhance your skills and CV.

A student's story...

Natalie Blackburn studied French and German, and graduated June 2011. Here she tells us about her study abroad and work placement experience.

My time abroad was absolutely incredible! I studied in France for three months and worked over the summer, then went to Hamburg to do a 12-month internship at euroShell. Having to leave the UK and my housemates before the end of term in my second year was tough, but arriving in France was amazing. It takes a bit of getting used to and there will always be things you miss, but it's really nice jumping into a different culture and putting everything you've learnt into practice.

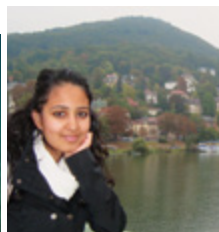
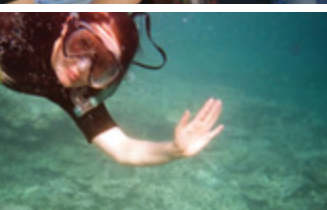
Although in France I lived in student accommodation, in Germany I had my own flat so had to deal with internet and electricity companies myself and get everything set up. Going in to German doctors and hairdressers for

the first time was daunting but it gave me so much confidence knowing I was living independently in a foreign country.

My internship at euroShell has definitely put me in good stead with 12 months' work experience before graduating, and it gave me a lot more confidence when applying for jobs. Doing a work placement means that when it comes to future interviews, you have so many more examples to draw on and much more to talk about. It makes your application stand out at a time when more and more people have a degree, so I'd recommend it to anyone.

The German department offered a lot of support in arranging the internship as they had previously sent students there and knew the company. I had help putting together a German CV and my tutor checked over my application before it was sent off. My personal tutor kept in contact during my year abroad and offered advice for any problems I was experiencing.

My time abroad increased my confidence no end, as I learnt to adapt to a totally new environment, meet people from all over the world and really stand on my own two feet.



Study abroad

- One of the widest ranges of opportunities for students to study abroad in the UK
- Choose from over 300 institutions – from Spain to Singapore
- More than 1,000 Leeds students study abroad every year – you could be one of them.

Work placements

- Choose full 12-month industrial placement (year in industry), a summer internship or a shorter project that you can do as part of your studies
- Link to potential employers and chance to gain a job offer before you graduate
- Some placements offer salaries.

Listen to what our students have to say about study abroad and work placements in these two video clips:



Students have their say on studying abroad

Joseph Robertson

Japanese and Asia Pacific Studies

"I studied abroad at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan. I would recommend studying abroad to anyone; it was a really brilliant experience and has helped me make friends not only in Japan but from all over the world."

Sophie Roberts

Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies

"I studied in Cairo for a year and it ended up being the best year of my life. It is amazing to study in a completely different environment and be immersed in a country with a different way of life."

Jacob Sheen

Sociology

"The study abroad year that I undertook in Australia as part of my third year remains the best year of my life to date and was an experience that I would encourage any student beginning their studies at Leeds to embark on."

Helen Owen

Psychology

"Choosing to study abroad is the best decision I have made at university. Not only does it look great on your CV as you have an international degree, it has been a great opportunity to travel and meet so many people. I have also found it has helped me gain extra knowledge on the subjects I wish to work on in my dissertation, back in my final year at Leeds."



Students have their say on work placements

Natasha Southam

French and Management

"I worked as a teaching assistant in Bergerac, France, and had an amazing year. The support provided from the University was amazing and led to less pressure throughout the year regarding administration/ finance etc, meaning I could concentrate on immersing myself in the French lifestyle!"

Charlotte Byrne

Sociology

"I'm learning so much. I've developed my commercial awareness and knowledge of business procedure but perhaps most importantly, I've developed a lot of transferable skills such as time management, organisation and communication. These skills will carry over into my final year of my course and then into work. I would recommend a placement year to everyone. It's been a great opportunity for me to improve my CV, develop my skills and get a taste of working in a certain industry."

Joe Thorogood

Mechanical Engineering

"My year working abroad gave me the opportunity to work and live with people from all over the world and opened my eyes to other cultures. The life experiences gained provided me with an excellent skill set that allows me to compete for the best jobs in the market."

> **More**
than 1,000 Leeds students study abroad every year

> LIFE AFTER LEEDS



How our University prepares you for life

Coming to Leeds is about joining a university you can be proud of. One where you know that you will be academically challenged but also be provided with opportunities to grow and develop into an independent, well-rounded individual, which will, eventually, help you secure a successful career.

The nature of the learning environment (and experience) at Leeds gives you the opportunity to mature into a highly employable graduate, but you won't always notice this – you'll be too busy enjoying your course and your experiences. This is something that comes as an added benefit of your course, your tutors and the amazing opportunities you get access to here.

Director General Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

“Most employers are less interested in the precise details of what graduates have studied than in what the experience has taught them... What matters is that graduates have the framework which allows them to keep on learning.”

Focus on Leeds for Life

What is Leeds for Life?

It is our approach to helping you get more out of university life from day one. It provides you with the facility to develop a living CV and to reflect on your experiences, and it guides you to the full range of activities available and the wide range of personal development and CV enhancing opportunities on offer at Leeds.

What kind of resources and activities can you access?

Study abroad; Year in industry; Language centre; Skills centre; Volunteering (over 2,000 Leeds students do over 65,000 hours of volunteer work a year); Careers – including support for setting up your own business; Student societies – Leeds student TV (LSTV), theatre, sports, language skills; boosting key skills such as mathematics, presentation style, report writing and much more.

How does it link back to studies?

Leeds for Life also helps you structure your regular one-to-one meetings with your personal tutor, supporting your personal and academic development, and identifying opportunities outside of your course such as volunteering and work placements that can enhance your skills and your degree.

How does this help with future careers?

The Leeds for Life site links with the careers service, and allows you to capture your experiences on an online 'living CV' that you get from day one. This grows with you throughout your time at Leeds and is ready to use when you start to apply for jobs. It will help you with applications and interviews by enabling you to recognise, and utilise, the skills you have gained and developed throughout your time at Leeds.

Students say

Natalie Blackburn

French and German, graduated June 2011

“I attended several events organised by the Careers Centre during my final year, such as presentations from alumni, networking sessions and interview workshops. Getting to practise these skills was really useful, and I always came away feeling more confident. The main struggle for some of my friends at other universities graduating this year was the lack of experience holding them back from getting a good job, and Leeds has definitely helped to make sure that this isn't the case for me.”

Calum Inverarity

Development with International Relations

“During my time both in Leeds and my year abroad I have been provided with many opportunities... my degree has just opened so many paths and opportunities.”

Richard Mellor

Theoretical Physics, graduated June 2011

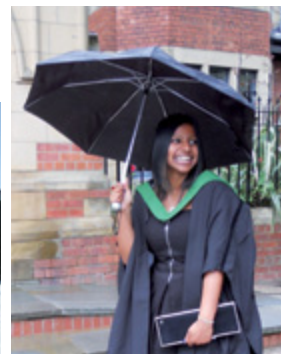
“The importance of going to see one of the professional careers consultants in the Careers Centre cannot be overstated. They helped me to think about possible careers I could go into, giving me suggestions for jobs I'd never even heard of. Then they showed me things I should get involved in which would help me to develop the skills and attributes that employers look for. Then ultimately they helped me get the job I am in now. The combination of subject knowledge and skills I developed on my course and the attributes I demonstrated in the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities I was involved in have made me a rounded, thoughtful and innovative thinking graduate, which it seems employers are keen to hire – I now have graduate-level jobs lined up until at least June 2015!”

Sarah McCarthy

English, graduated June 2011

“After graduating I applied for a job at the University, and sought advice from the Careers Centre. They were so helpful – they found the exact names to address my cover letter to, as well as giving advice on how to tailor my CV to specifically the role I was applying for. Even after graduation the Careers Centre offer advice and services – it's invaluable!”

> My degree has just opened so many paths and opportunities



Thanks to the following current and former students for their contributions to this magazine

Jenny Stephenson, Natalie Blackburn, Richard Mellor, Benjamin Schonewald, Simon Bressanelli, Sarah McCarthy, Emma Pugh, Coral Major, Joe Thomas, Lewis Emmerton, Sadie Chetwyn, Joanna Souter, Kelly-Marie Bird, Bethany Parsons, Melanie Ogden, Leslie Hough, Joseph Robertson, Sophie Roberts, Jacob Sheen, Helen Owen, Natasha Southam, Charlotte Byrne, Joe Thorogood, Calum Inverarity.

Legal

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For current information on courses, fees and entry requirements please visit our website at



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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