

TRANSITIONS - FRESHER ADVICE

The time frame between getting your results and arriving at University is much shorter than you realise. Being prepared is the best way for you to feel less anxious about transitioning into Higher Education. If you are moving out here's our top tips for Freshers!

Before you go: Complete our [University Checklist \(Day 2\)](#) - we have thought of EVERYTHING!

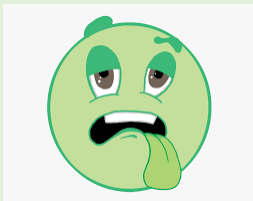
Top Tip: store some flattened boxes under your bed! You'll be thankful when the summer comes and you move.

When you arrive:

Get snap happy - of course you should take loads of selfies to document Freshers' week BUT take pics of your accommodation when you move in - whether that be university halls or private housing.

If you fail to document any faults or damage now, you could get the blame for it when you move out, and you'll lose a big chunk of your deposit in the process. So, take a good hour soon after you arrive to go through your inventory and note down any faults - however small - and take picture or video evidence.

When you first move into your new abode, and there are all these strange new people wandering around, it can be tempting to hide away in your room to avoid any awkward small talk. Move-in day is the ideal time to bond, so prop open your door and be a friendly face - offer to carry boxes or make a cup of tea for everyone.



The first time you're ill away from home will always be tough, with a notable lack of people to bring you hot water bottles.

Getting sick before you've signed up to your local doctor's surgery will make things even worse and harder to get medical help when you really need it. Take five minutes when you arrive to suss out where your nearest GP is and sign up.

Freshers Week!

1. Fresher's week is billed as one of the most exciting, memorable weeks of your life, so it's understandable to feel the pressure to go to lots of events to feel you're getting the most out of it. Now, don't get us wrong, we are familiar with the phrase 'go hard or go home', but you know, sometimes sleep is pretty good too.

Too many events will leave you cashless for the rest of the term and with a serious case of the fresher's flu. Dragging yourself to every single party will only end up taking the fun out of it!

Fresher's week can be really overwhelming - it is some students first time around lots of other people, drinks, games and going into town. We pinky-promise you'll still make friends even if you do miss the odd event, and you'll feel so much better for it. So put that FOMO to bed.

2. While it would be a complete lie to try and tell you that fresher's week has nothing to do with alcohol, it's also not the be all and end all of organised activities. Universities host a whole range of events to help welcome you to your new home, from local sightseeing and city tours, to IKEA trips and film marathons. Not only are they often really useful for discovering your new surroundings, but they're also a great way of making friends you'll actually remember the morning after.
3. In the student haze of late-night partying and stumbling home at 4am, it's all too easy to forget there are other humans living around you. If you annoy them repeatedly, they could make a complaint to the university or even the police. This could land you in deep trouble, both with your university and the law. So be mindful of others and don't make the mistake of being bad neighbours.

And if you're at the receiving end of it, don't suffer in silence - [complain](#).

Keys:

It's worth making friends with the security guards or your landlord if you're the forgetful type, as this common mistake can work out really costly. Keep your keys in easy-to-find places at all times, as new sets of keys can cost upwards of £60, and many landlords will charge a call-out fee even if you just need to be let in. If you're known for being a scatter-brain, get a cheap replacement set cut and give them to a reliable friend for emergencies.

Clean it up:

No one likes washing up, but when new life forms start to grow on them, you'll like the consequences of leaving them unwashed even less. The same goes for emptying the bins; it's not meant to be fun, but it's definitely necessary.

Make sure to sort out a plan of action with your flatmates early. Decide whether you're going to just clean up after yourselves, attack the grime collectively or simply sort out a cleaning rota.

Shopping:

It may seem like a money-savvy idea to hold out until the cupboards are bare, but remember: 'you're not you when you're hungry'. Shopping on an empty stomach will lead to impulse buys and overspending on more things than you really need. Before you hit the aisles make a shopping list of the things you need and stick to it, regardless of how enticing that bucket of mini chocolate bites looks.

Call home:

You might have started your new exciting life at university now, but that doesn't mean you should forget the people who are important to you back home. Your family and friends are missing you and would love to hear updates on how you're doing, as well as some reassurance that you haven't forgotten about them. It's totally okay to feel homesick sometimes, especially when you first move out. It's a huge step to head off to university, and everyone else is feeling the same way so don't be afraid to open up to others.

Money Matters:

Overdrafts are a necessity for most students these days, but it's very important to understand this is not free money. A student bank account may be giving you 0% interest now, but when you graduate you will have to start repaying them – money in the bank or not. Our National Student Money Survey found that 62% of students don't think their maintenance loan stretches far enough at university, and a whopping 67% of students turn to part-time jobs. There's usually plenty of part-time job roles on offer at university, but you'll have to be quick off the mark if you want to get ahead of the competition. Start with our part-time job search.

If you have any questions, you can live chat a member of our team [here](#).

We'd love to know if you found this resource helpful, let us know [here](#).