



A guide to

LONDON

Getting started in London

This section will guide you through the key steps to make your transition to London seamless.

Settling into Life in London

From grocery shopping and socializing to staying healthy and safe, this section provides useful tips to help you feel at home in the city.

Welcome to London:

A guide for new

students



London is an exciting and vibrant city, and moving here to study English is a fantastic experience. This guide will help you get started and settle in smoothly, providing essential information for newcomers.

GETTING STARTED IN LONDON

Moving to a new city can feel daunting, but with the right info, you'll be sorted in no time.

From getting around to finding somewhere to live and setting up essentials, this section covers the basics to help you settle in smoothly.

1

GETTING AROUND

London is huge, but it's easy to navigate with the right tools. Here are some must-have apps:

- Citymapper – The best app for public transport routes.
- Google Maps – Great for walking directions and exploring the city.
- TfL Go – The official app for London transport updates.
- Uber/Bolt/FREENOW – Handy for booking taxis when needed.



2

PUBLIC TRANSPORT & OYSTER CARD

London's transport network includes buses, the Tube, trains, and trams. To travel cheaply, get an Oyster card or use contactless payment:

- Oyster Card – A travel card for all public transport.
- Bus Hopper Fare – Unlimited bus journeys within an hour for one fare.
- TfL Contactless Payment – Use your debit/credit card or phone to pay instead of an Oyster.
- **18+ Student Oyster photo card discount**

One of the benefits of being enrolled at Time4London is being able to apply for a student oyster card. You will get 30% off the price of adult-rate Travel cards and Bus & Tram.

3

ACCOMMODATION

Finding a place to stay is crucial. Some popular student areas include Camden, Shoreditch, Stratford, and Hammersmith. Websites such as SpareRoom, Rightmove, and Zoopla can help you find suitable housing.

Time4London offer different accommodation options so that whichever one you choose, you will feel at home. You can choose from Host families, Shared flats, Residence, Hostel.

4

SETTING UP A UK BANK ACCOUNT

Having a UK bank account will make payments easier. Some popular banks include:

- Traditional banks: Lloyds, HSBC, Barclays, NatWest
- Digital banks: Monzo, Revolut, Starling (these are easy to set up and manage via apps)

5

GETTING A UK SIM CARD

To stay connected, get a UK SIM card from providers like EE, Vodafone, O2, GiffGaff, Three. Many offer student-friendly pay-as-you-go or monthly plans.

A low-angle photograph of the Tower Bridge in London, showing its two massive stone towers and the blue suspension cables. The bridge is set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The water of the River Thames is visible at the bottom of the frame.

SETTLING INTO LIFE IN LONDON

Once you've sorted the essentials, it's time to enjoy life in London.

From shopping and socialising to staying healthy and safe, this section has handy tips to help you feel at home.

1

GROCERY SHOPPING & EATING OUT

- Affordable supermarkets: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Lidl, Aldi, ASDA
- International stores: Many areas have Asian, Middle Eastern, and European supermarkets.
- Eating out: Look for student discounts and budget-friendly restaurants. Apps like Too Good To Go offer discounted food from restaurants and cafes.



2

MAKING FRIENDS & SOCIALIZING

- Join clubs, such as sports, art, pottery or even music and societies.
- Use apps like Meetup to find events and groups with similar interests.
- Visit student-friendly spots such as pubs, libraries, and cultural venues.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

- **NHS Registration** – Register with a local GP (doctor) through the NHS website.
- **Pharmacies** – Boots and Superdrug are common pharmacies where you can get medication and health products.
- **Mental Health Support** – Many universities offer counseling services, and charities like Mind UK provide support.



SAFETY & EMERGENCY CONTACTS

London is generally safe, but here are some important emergency numbers:

- 999 – Emergency services (police, ambulance, fire)
- 101 – Non-emergency police line
- 111 – NHS non-emergency medical help
- TfL Lost Property – If you lose something on public transport, check with TfL Lost Property.

ENJOY YOUR

TIME IN

LONDON

London is full of culture, history, and experiences waiting for you. Make sure to explore its museums, parks, markets, and iconic landmarks. Enjoy your journey and make the most of your time in this amazing city!





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