

SI>UK

MOVE FORWARD. BE GREAT.



**PRE-DEPARTURE
BOOKLET**

**UK
University
Specialists**

www.studyin-uk.in

TOLL FREE NUMBER 1800 309 9008

MOVE FORWARD. BE GREAT.



WELCOME NOTE

Greetings! We are delighted to learn that you have decided to study in the UK and we wish you the very best for your journey ahead. Every year there is a rise in the number of international students from more than 200 countries attending over 120 higher education institutions in the UK. As per the most recent statistics this number has reached 605,130 and you will soon be the next. It is an opportunity for you to make the most of this tremendous opportunity to learn, grow, move forward and become a global citizen.

SI-UK understands how difficult it is to make such a massive leap into the unknown, but we are here to assist you at every step of the way. From booking your accommodation to opening a bank account, we have you covered and this guide will serve the purpose in a variety of ways whether it is presenting a checklist of all the do's and don'ts or relevant contact information.



PRE-ARRIVAL

- When should I travel to the UK?
- COVID-19 Guidelines
- Accommodation
- Flights
- Currency

POST-ARRIVAL

- After arriving in the UK
- Passing through immigration
- Travelling to your university via taxi/coach/train
- Part-time employment
- Biometric Residence Permit
- Do's and Don'ts in the UK
- Transferring money from India to the UK
- Registering with a doctor
- Student discount card
- Mobile and phone calling cards
- Emergency contact numbers
- Graduate Entrepreneur Visa
- Cost of living
- Opening a bank account
- Healthcare in the UK
- Important contact information

PRE-ARRIVAL

Appropriate Time for Travelling

If your course duration is longer than six months (undergraduate or postgraduate level) or is a pre-sessional English language course of lesser than six months, you will be able to travel to the UK upto one month prior to your course inception date.

Although if you are starting a course, which is less than six months in duration and is not a pre-sessional English language course, you will only be able to travel to the UK upto seven days before the course commencement date. You can find your course start date on your CAS letter.



You are required to state your intended travel date on your visa application. You will then receive a letter and UK visa, which will allow you to travel to the UK within days from the stated date.

Lastly, you will be required to collect your Biometric Residence Permit within 10 days of arriving in the UK.

FLIGHTS

It is best to book flights as soon as one receives their orientation details from the university. The price range may vary for a one-way ticket, as it can start from around INR 24,000, and can go as high as INR 200,000.

Check the following before booking the flight:

- If you are allowed additional baggage, which is most likely for students
- Whether the preference is morning or afternoon flights, as per the UK time zone
- Align your pick-up as per local arrival timings
- Travel Insurance

** Please note that prices may vary depending on the time of the year.
For best price, it is best to book in advance.*

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has presented the world with times when mandatory restrictions and guidelines have saved and bound us both. However, considering the decreasing cases the UK has taken a major step of removing many a COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Thus, the regulations you do **Not** need to follow anymore include:

- Fill a passenger locator form before travelling
- Take a COVID-19 test before travelling or after arrival
- Quarantine on arrival

Although, the norms that you **Must** adhere to include:

- Abide by COVID-appropriate behaviour norms
- Make certain you are fully vaccinated at least 14-days prior to your travel as per the UK vaccination programme, and be mindful that the day you had your final dose is not counted.



PRECAUTIONS

- If you think you have symptoms stay at home and take a PCR test
- Masking in crowded places and on public transport
- Washing your hands with soap regularly
- Download NHS COVID-19 app once you arrive in the UK

If you have any queries about the recent developments in the COVID-19 situation in the UK, feel free to reach our staff for further details.

CURRENCY

Initially, you will need a small GBP denominated amount and travellers' cheques to cover the primary cost of travelling to your university, paying for accommodation deposit, food and other essentials. It is generally recommended for students to carry approx. £1,000 with them.

Many banks in India now offer multi-currency cards, which allow you to deposit currency locally. These are like debit cards in the currency of your choice.

When in the UK, budgeting and managing your money is vital. The UK Council for International Student Affairs presents a realistic view of budgeting and money-saving tips and can help you plan your finances with up-to-date information and analytical report.



Note: if you carry more than £10,000 in cash or travellers cheque you will need to declare this at Customs in the UK.

Tip: Exchange currency from your nearest forex dealer and not at the airport to save money on fees, and also to receive better value for your Indian currency.

ACCOMMODATION

It is important to arrange accommodation in advance of your arrival. University accommodation on campus is the most suitable and convenient option, meaning you are close to classes and will also meet many fellow international students.

TYPES OF STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

• Halls of residence

Owned, managed and maintained by the university, accommodation for international students at halls of residence is usually guaranteed for first year applicants. A private room will generally be allotted, while spaces such as kitchen and lounge area will be shared in an apartment by anything between 4-8 fellow students. All bills, including Wi-Fi and gas, are included in your rent.



• Private halls of residence

Whilst not owned by the university, private halls share many of the same facilities as university run halls such as inclusive bills and shared spaces. Private halls tend to be slightly more expensive, but this extra expense is reflected in more modern facilities.

• Private renting

Renting privately is wholly independent, and it is important to understand that you are responsible for all the bills and cleanliness of the property.



For further guidance on private renting, please see the following three websites

- www.gov.uk/tenancy-deposit-protection
- www.casita.com
- www.gov.uk/private-renting

POST-ARRIVAL

After arriving in the UK



You will first go through immigration control where the following documents and items will be checked:

- Passport
- Visa
- Original transcripts and certificates
- Flight ticket
- Valuables, medicines (with prescription)
- CAS letter
- Accommodation confirmation letter (if applicable)
- Cash and/or travellers cheques
- Medical certificates - TB and chest X-ray reports
- Original documentation and letters from the university
- Copy of bank statements, a sponsor's letter or bank draft

STUDENT DISCOUNT CARD

There are certain discounts and credit facilities available for students and young individuals, which can be availed by buying the following cards:

STUDENT DISCOUNT CARDS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>16-25 Rail Card</i>	Costs £30 for one year or £70 for three years on the national rail network.
NATIONAL COACHES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Young Persons Coachcard</i>	Charges £12.50 per year or £30 for three years.
LONDON TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>18+ Student Oyster Card</i>	Costs £25 to register and you will receive a 30% discount on all Bus and tube travel.
FOOD AND CLOTHING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>International Student Identity Card</i>	Valid for all international students, the ISIC card offers 42,000 benefits and discounts. This card is valid worldwide.
COMBINED DISCOUNT CARD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>NUS Card</i> • <i>UniDays app on the phone</i>	

Fee Deposit Method : If you have to deposit fees to the University, you may use foreign exchange payment platform like Flywire. It is a trusted platform for paying the University in INR. The INR quoted is valid throughout the period mentioned on the invoice. GBP to INR conversion rate for the present day can be known from portals such as OANDA and XE conversion. Also, it is advisable to check with multiple forex traders to procure the best exchange rate. A direct bank transfer is also possible depending upon the credit limit.

PASSING THROUGH IMMIGRATION

After you pass through immigration and passport control, you will have to collect your luggage and go through Customs.



When you travel to the UK from abroad, you can bring in goods without having to pay UK tax, as long as they are for your own use. The amount of goods you can bring in depends upon where you are travelling from. For more details please visit: www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods



There are restrictions on the amount of tobacco, alcohol and gifts you can bring into the UK (see: www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods) and it is important to be aware of the tax and duty limit on goods brought to the UK.

If you exceed your allowance, you will have to declare it and pay duty at the Customs, otherwise these items may be taken away. You must declare £10,000 cash or more to the customs office. The cash not only means currency notes and coins, but also banker's drafts and cheques of any kind, including travellers' cheques. You will find the relevant forms needed to fill out at ports and airports. If you have nothing to declare, exit through the green door/channel.

More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/bringing-cash-into-uk>.

MOBILE AND PHONE CARDS

If you already have an unlocked cell phone, you won't need a new phone when arriving in the UK and you will only need to buy a suitable SIM card. Two popular phone networks that offer SIM cards are O2 and Vodafone.



For example, you would pay £10 for 100 calling minutes to India, unlimited texts, and 4GB of data. Not many students buy international calling cards to call back home, and prefer to talk over Skype, Whatsapp or Facetime, but if you still wish to get a SIM that offers cheap international calling, Lebara, Lycamobile, or Rebtel are all trusted networks.

TRAVELLING TO THE UNIVERSITY VIA TAXI/COACH/TRAIN

• Coach

The most economical way to reach your university is by coach, with coaches from main airports running frequently throughout the day. Tickets for these can be purchased at www.nationalexpress.com or the National Express Booking Office found at many terminals. It is a COVID-secure and highly trusted means of commute.



• Train

Train travel is more expensive than taking a coach, but also much faster. All airports have train stations which connect with major cities and tickets can be bought online at www.thetrainline.com or the ticket office at the airport. Tickets will be comparatively more affordable if purchased online in advance.

• Taxi

Travelling by taxi is the most expensive option. For instance, a trip from London Heathrow to Warwick may cost around £200.



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

- NHS Direct Helpline - 111
- Fire (Emergency) - 999
- Fire (Non-emergency) - 272 7202
- Helpline (For emotional distress) - 08001 070 160
- Ambulance – 999
- Police (Emergency) - 999
- Police (Non-emergency) - 101
- UK Power Networks (Power-cuts) - 105

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

International students can work part-time for a maximum of 20 hours per week once their course begins. Also, the international students pursuing full-time degree can work full-time during official vacation periods.

As an international student on a student visa, you can do most kinds of work, but you will be subjected to strict working restrictions regarding the types of employment you can seek in the UK. You must not:

- Be self-employed
- Engage in business activity
- Enrol with career services
- Work as a professional sportsperson, including coaching
- Work as an entertainer
- Doctor or dentist, unless you are on a foundation programme
- Secure a permanent full-time job

Wages

From April 2022

- £9.50 an hour - Aged 23 years and above
- £9.18 an hour - Aged 21 to 22 years
- £6.83 an hour - Aged 18 to 22 years
- £4.81 an hour - Under 18 years

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>



TIER 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur)

If you wish to start a business in the UK after your studies, a graduate entrepreneur visa will be required. You can apply for a Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa if you are a graduate who has been officially endorsed as having a genuine and credible business idea, are from outside the EEA, and meet the other eligibility criteria for the visa.

COST OF LIVING, LONDON VS. REST OF THE UK

Item	London	Rest of the UK
Rent (One bedroom sharing)	£479 - £1,416	£240-400
Utilities (Electricity, Heating, Bills)	£199	£166
Internet (10 MBPS, Unlimited Data)	£32.35	£20.55
Mobile	£17	£ 1 7
Petrol (1 litre)	£1.87	£ 1.68
Monthly Transport	£159	£98
Bread	£ 1.15	£1.12
Milk (1litre)	£0.94	£0.91
Eggs (12 eggs)	£3.17	£2.74
Potatoes (1 kg)	£1.00	£ 0.87
Restaurant (meal for two)	£55	£45

**Please note that prices may vary, (Source: <https://www.expatistan.com/cost-of-living>)*

DO'S AND DON'TS IN THE UK

If you wish to start a business in the UK after your studies, a graduate entrepreneur visa will be required. You can apply for a Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa if you are a graduate who has been officially endorsed as having a genuine and credible business idea, are from outside the EEA, and meet the other eligibility criteria for the visa.

Do's...

- Leave 2 sets of photocopies of your academic documents and visa at home
- Always treat people with respect by being polite and courteous
- Carry at least two Indian outfits for festival and celebrations at the university
- Carry woollen clothes, one big coat, a thick muffler, umbrella and boots
- Always follow the queue
- Carry the university welcome pack along with 10-15 passport size photos, leave five photos at home
- Use phrases such as thank you, please, sorry and excuse me when appropriate
- Carry one set of formal wear for interviews, and other formal events
- Carry a pair of good sports shoes (water proof)

Don'ts...

- Plagiarise
- Be late
- Speak loudly while travelling on public transport
- Harm public property
- Litter on roads
- Carry extra baggage

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

To open a bank account you will need your passport, a letter of acceptance from your university, proof of your address at home and in the UK, and a reference letter along with statements from your home bank. It can take upto a week to open your account, so plan accordingly. Major banks in the UK include HSBC, Barclays, Natwest, Santander, Lloyds TSB and The Royal Bank of Scotland. Most banks have branches in or around university campuses.



Banks in Scotland and Northern Ireland issue their own currency notes and, whilst they can be accepted as currency in England and Wales, they can also be refused. If you have a large number of Scottish or Northern Irish bank notes and are travelling to England, it is advisable to have them exchanged before your visit. You can also check with the bank if they exchange such notes.

TRANSFERRING MONEY FROM INDIA TO THE UK

The easiest way to send money from India to the UK is via electronic transfer. To do this, the Indian bank will need:

- UK bank's name and full address
- Your name as given in your UK bank account
- UK bank account number
- UK bank sort code

Money can also be transferred using a banker's draft. This is a document drawn up by the bank in your home country. When you present the banker's draft to your bank in the UK, for transferring the money, ensure you ask what about applicable charges and the duration it will take. Also keep copies of the relevant documents in case a dispute arises in the future.

HEALTHCARE IN THE UK

The NHS (National Health Service) is the UK's state health service which provides treatment on a wide range of health care services. Because of the mental and physical toll of relocating to the UK when you first arrive, it is important to look after your health by registering with a doctor as soon as possible. If your course lasts longer than six months you will qualify for free National Health Service (NHS) treatment.

If you are entitled to NHS treatment the following services will be free of charge:

- Medicine you require on prescription
- Consulting a doctor/General Practitioner (GP) and most other GP services
- Treatment in a hospital (both emergency and non-emergency treatment)

You may have to pay for:

- Some GP services (e.g. vaccinations for travel or getting a sickness certificate)
- Any illness that existed before you arrived in the UK
- Optical treatment
- Dental treatment



REGISTERING WITH A DOCTOR

In the UK, non-emergencies are dealt with by doctors known as General Practitioners (GP). You need to register with a doctor before you are treated, so it is important to do this as soon as you arrive.

You do not need to pay to register with or to consult with a GP. Medical appointments tend to be short and last no longer than 10 minutes. If extra medical treatment is needed, you will be referred to a consultant or a specialist in that field. Women can choose to see a lady doctor if they wish.

If you are living in university accommodation, registration with a doctor can be arranged through your hall of residence. You can also register with a GP by going to your nearest doctor's surgery (clinic). Your nearest surgery can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-GP>

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION AND WEBSITES

- **High Commission of India in London**
India House, Aldwych, London,
WC2 B 4NA, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7836 9147 (Working hours)
T: +44 (0) 20 77687 65035 (After working hours)
www.hcilondon.gov.in
- **Consulate General of India**
2 Darnley Road, Birmingham, B16 8TE
T: +44 (0) 7405 15 8288
Email: inf.birmingham@mea.gov.in
www.cgibirmingham.gov.in
- **Consulate General of India**
17 Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2BB
T: +44 (0) 131 229 2144
Email: cg.edinburgh@mea.gov.in
www.cgiedinburgh.gov.in
- **Honorary Consulate of India, Cardiff (Wales)**
63-67 Wellfield Road, Cardiff CF24 3PA
T: +44 (0) 30304 02777
Email : enquiries@hciwales.in
www.hcilondon.gov.in/page/cardiff/
- **British Council Customer Service UK**
Bridgewater House, 58 Whitworth Street
Manchester, M1 6BB
T: +44 (0)161 957 7755
www.britishcouncil.org/contact
- **Honorary Consulate of India**
Andras House, 60 Great Victoria Street
Belfast, BT2 7BB
T: +44 (0) 28908 78787
www.hcilondon.gov.in/page/belfast/

TRAVEL

Visit Britain

<https://www.visitbritain.com>

Visit Scotland

www.visitscotland.com

Hostelling Scotland

www.hostellingscotland.org.uk

Youth Hostel Association

www.yha.org.uk

Wales Tourist Board

www.visitwales.com

Northern Ireland Tourist Board

www.tourismni.com

OTHERS

Website for reference

www.gov.uk

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Refer-A-Friend

and get £50
for each referral*

*Paid upon registration at the University/College



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QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

Land area 243,610 square km
Population 68.5 million

Seasons

Winter	December to February
Spring	March to May
Summer	June to August
Autumn	September to November

Academic year start and end dates

For the majority of students, each academic year will run from 1 September to 31 August but there are 4 official start dates in each academic year with each lasting 12 months.

You can find the one which applies to you based your course start date.

If your course starts between: Your academic year will run from:

1 August and 31 December 1 September to 31 August

1 January and 31 March 1 January to 31 December

1 April and 30 June 1 April to 31 March

1 July and 31 July 1 July to 30 June

For more information visit

www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-academic-years

System of Government

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) is a constitutional monarchy. It means that the country has a Queen or a King along with a democratically elected Government.

Legal System

United Kingdom uses a common law system that constitutes a body of laws based on custom, usage and rulings by courts in various jurisdictions.

Main political parties

Conservative Party

Labour Party

Liberal Democrats

Monarch

The current monarch is Queen Elizabeth II, who ascended the throne in 1952.



Notes:



@indiasiuuk



@SI_UK_India



siukindia



si.uk.counselling



SI-UK GLOBAL

NORTH

SI-UK DELHI

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 ✉ delhi@studyin-uk.com

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 ☎ 0141 4011629, 7683064228
 ✉ jaipur@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK LUCKNOW

408, 4th floor, Shalimar square, 126/31, BN Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow 226001
 ☎ 8882914694
 ✉ lucknow@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK CHANDIGARH

SCO 310, 1st Floor, Sector 35-B (behind Hotel JW Marriott), Chandigarh 160022
 ☎ 8287256724
 ✉ chandigarh@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK GURUGRAM

Unit No.219, 2nd Floor, Time Tower, Near MG Road metro station, Gurugram 122002
 ☎ 8130498881
 ✉ gurugram@studyin-uk.com

WEST

SI-UK MUMBAI

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 ☎ 9354938639
 ✉ mumbai@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK PUNE

Office No 102, 1st Floor, Karnik Corner, Above Blackberry Store, Opposite to Wood Land Show Room, Jangali Maharaj Road, Shivajinagar, Pune 411004, Maharashtra, India
 ☎ 9310404722, 020 48611079
 ✉ pune@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK AHMEDABAD

301, 3rd Floor, Zodiac Plaza, Beside Nabard Vihar, H L Commerce College Road, Off CG Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380009
 ☎ 9354937091
 ✉ ahmedabad@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK THANE

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 ☎ 07304687305, 022 46018243
 ✉ thane@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK NAGPUR

301-302, 3rd Floor, Sadoday Arcade West High Court Road, Opposite Bank Of Baroda, Gokulpeth, Dharampeth, Nagpur 440010, Maharashtra, India
 ☎ 0712-3583079
 ✉ nagpur@studyin-uk.com

SOUTH

SI-UK BANGALORE

3rd Floor, Sai Complex, No.114, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Hariidevpur, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar Bangalore 560001 Karnataka, India
 ☎ 080 41688282, 9986077782, 7676008282
 ✉ bangalore@studyin-uk.com

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 ✉ hyderabad@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK CHENNAI

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 ☎ 9381708282, 9025588282
 ✉ chennai@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK COIMBATORE

Tristar Tower - West Wing, #657, 3rd Floor, Above IndusInd Bank, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore 641037, Tamil Nadu, India
 ☎ 9972484782, 0422-4962282
 ✉ coimbatore@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK KOCHI

1st Floor, Raj Soudh Building, M.G. Road, Ravipuram, Kochi 682015, Kerala, India
 ☎ 9310404716
 ✉ kochi@studyin-uk.com

SI-UK VIJAYAWADA

Hrt Plaza, D.No 40-1-100B & 40-1-100B/1 Ground Floor, MG Rd, NCBN Colony, Benz Circle, Vijayawada 520010, Andhra Pradesh
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 ✉ vijayawada@studyin-uk.com

EAST

SI-UK KOLKATA

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 ☎ 9147104214
 ✉ kolkata@studyin-uk.com

CENTRAL

SI-UK INDORE

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 ✉ indore@studyin-uk.com