GUIDE 02 • BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Preparing for Arrival

Your step-by-step checklist for a smoother start to student life.



A practical guide for students

From travel documents to the first grocery shop, a little preparation can make your arrival calmer. This guide is designed mainly for international students coming to the UK.

- Prepare documents and arrival arrangements well before travel.
- Understand the first-week tasks that are easy to overlook.
- Keep a personal checklist for a confident start.

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How to use this guide

Read the advice, use the practical checklist and worksheets, and check current requirements directly with the university and official sources before making commitments.

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Four to six weeks before travel

Dates and requirements differ - your university and official guidance take priority.

- **Check permission to travel:** Do not travel before your permission allows it. If you use a UK eVisa, check the UKVI account shows your correct passport and status.
- **Read your university's arrival instructions:** Note enrolment, orientation, accommodation key collection and any arrival support.
- **Confirm accommodation:** Verify the address, move-in time, deposit/payment schedule and who to call outside office hours.
- **Plan travel from the airport:** Compare train, bus and pre-booked transfer options; check luggage rules and late arrival times.
- **Prepare your essentials:** Keep scanned copies of your key records in a secure location and bring the originals you need.
- **Budget for setup:** Allow for food, bedding, local transport, SIM/mobile plan and possible unexpected costs.

UK eVisa reminder

UK government guidance says travellers using an eVisa should check that their UKVI account details and current passport match the information used for travel. Rules can change: always verify directly on GOV.UK.

Documents folder: start here

Carry with you (as relevant)	Keep accessible digitally
Valid passport / travel document	Travel booking and accommodation address
Visa / eVisa access details and permission information	University offer and enrolment instructions
University joining instructions	Emergency contacts and travel insurance details
Any supporting documents your university requests	Payment receipts and key contact numbers

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Your travel-day plan

Write down enough detail to cope with a delayed flight or an empty phone battery.

Travel detail	Your information
Arrival airport + date	_____
Flight / train reference	_____
First-night address	_____
How to get there	_____
Accommodation contact	_____
Emergency / trusted contact	_____

At the airport and on your journey

- Keep travel documents, medication and essential valuables in hand luggage, subject to airline and customs rules.
- Follow entry instructions from Border Force and your university; answer questions accurately.
- Connect to trusted Wi-Fi or a mobile network before navigating onward.
- Use licensed or verified transport arrangements and confirm the destination address before departure.
- If delayed, tell accommodation staff or your designated university arrival contact as early as possible.

Simple safety habit

Do not share your passport, payment card, UKVI sign-in codes or one-time passcodes with an unknown caller or chat account. Contact your university through its published official channels if uncertain.

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Your first seven days

A practical priority list - complete tasks when relevant to your circumstances.

When	Suggested actions
Day 1	Settle into accommodation; tell a trusted contact you arrived; check basic safety and essential supplies.
Days 1-3	Follow university check-in and enrolment instructions; learn your campus route; activate phone/data and local transport.
Days 2-5	Review your housing inventory/contract; explore groceries and essential services; ask about opening an eligible bank account.
Week 1	Attend orientation; explore student wellbeing/support; learn how to access healthcare and register with a GP if appropriate.
Ongoing	Keep copies of documents, track spending, attend induction and ask for help early if anything is unclear.

Before you leave - final checklist

- My travel document and UKVI/eVisa details are correct, where applicable.
- I know exactly where I will sleep on the first night.
- I have confirmed arrival and enrolment instructions with the university.
- I have enough accessible money for my first days and an emergency.
- My trusted contact knows my flight and arrival plan.

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Official resources

GOV.UK - travel with your eVisa ↗

GOV.UK - Student visa overview ↗

UKCISA - information for international students ↗

Want help planning your next step?

Berkeley is Axyron Destinations' AI assistant. Ask a question, explain your needs, or request help from our team.

Chat with Berkeley on WhatsApp →
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General preparation guidance; individual visa and immigration circumstances vary. Axyron does not guarantee entry, enrolment or any immigration outcome. Verify rules with GOV.UK and your university. Updated October 2026.

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