



WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Immigration and Customs

For useful advice and guidance about what to expect when passing through immigration and customs click on [this link](#).

When you arrive at the airport, make sure you have the address and postcode of the place where you are staying. You will also need enough money in UK Pounds Sterling so that you can travel from the airport to your accommodation (see below). You may also find it useful to have a London trains and Underground map with you but always plan your journey in advance.

London Heathrow – If you are arriving at Heathrow airport there are a number of ways you can travel to your accommodation. The Heathrow Express train takes 15 minutes to get to London Paddington station in central London and costs approximately £20 for a single express ticket. It will be cheaper to book these tickets in advance.

London Heathrow is also on the Piccadilly line of the London Underground, it will be cheaper than the Heathrow Express train but will take a bit longer to get to central London-cost is approximately £2.10 for a single fare (off-peak*).

London Gatwick - If you are arriving at Gatwick airport, the Gatwick Express and First Capital Connect trains both provide a service to central London (approximately £17.70 - online. Again, it will be cheaper to book tickets in advance and First Capital Connect will be cheaper (approximately £5- 10 for a single journey) but slower.

London Gatwick airport does not have a London Underground station.

London Luton - If you are arriving at Luton airport both First Capital Connect and East Midland trains operate from Luton Airport Parkway station (cost to central London approximately £15 for a single journey).

Luton is a town in the county of Bedfordshire which is outside of Greater London and so it does not have an Underground Station.

London Stansted – If you arriving at Stansted airport you will be able to take a Stansted Express train to central London (approximately £23.40. Again it will be cheaper to book this in advance. Stansted airport is located in the county of Essex which borders the north and East of Greater London. The airport therefore does not have an Underground station.



London City Airport – London City Airport is the smallest but most centrally located airports in the London area. It is mainly short haul flights that land at London City Airport, however if you do arrive here, there is a train link at the airport to central London called the Docklands Light Railway (DLR, and costs £2.10 for a single off peak* journey.

Using a Taxi

Using a taxi from the airport to your accommodation might be the easiest way to travel but it will also be the most expensive. From Heathrow or Gatwick airports expect to pay as much as £60 for the journey, charges from Luton or Stansted airports will be considerably more.

You may find the following websites useful in order to receive a quote for how much a taxi journey will cost to your accommodation. Make sure you have enough money on you to cover the amount.

[Taxi transfer from Heathrow](#)

[Taxi transfer from Gatwick](#)

[Taxi transfer from Luton](#)

[Taxi transfer from Stansted](#)

*Off Peak fares apply from 09:30-16:00 and after 19:00 Monday - Friday

Calling home

Once you arrive in London, you will most likely want to call home to let family and friends know that you have arrived safely. Use [this link](#) to access the calling code for your country.

Opening a Bank Account

There are a number of different banks and building societies in the UK offering banking facilities to students. The level of service provided by each of the banks may vary; students should shop around to discover which one provides the best service.

You will normally be required to show all of the following original documents to a bank before an account can be opened:

- Your passport or ID Card as proof of identity
- Your University/college offer letter with your address on it

With a basic bank account:

- You can have money paid directly into your account.
- You can take your money out at a cash machine.
- You can take your money out at a Post Office.
- You can pay bills by standing order or direct debit.
- You may be able to make purchases online or in shops (check with the bank).

[UKCISA](#) – It's the Council for International Student Affairs providing advice and to international students studying in the UK.

[UKVI](#) - The Home Office website helps you understand UK Immigration control, working regulations and restrictions and how to apply for an extension of your visa from within the UK.

Useful Websites

- [TFL](#) – Travel For London Official website
- [16-25 Railcard](#) – Discounted railcards for students
- [ISIC](#) - International Student Identity Card
- [Prepare for Success](#) – Learning tools for International students
- [Study UK](#) - Practical information on UK education for International students
- [Student Calculator](#) – Manage your money as a student
- [Metropolitan Police](#)