

Life In Leeds



Leeds is a city in the North of England. It is a very popular destination for students, with 2 major universities. Leeds has a very multi-cultural population with many restaurants and food shops. The cost of living is much cheaper in the North of England and it is easy to reach anywhere in the UK in a few hours. London is just over 2 hours away by fast train and Edinburgh 3 hours

There are many things to do and places to visit in Leeds, such as theatres, cinemas, museums. Not far from the city are many places

to visit. You get the benefit of living in the city but are never far away from beautiful countryside.

Travel

Local Buses - The bus service in Leeds is cost effective and reliable. If you want to travel around the city, or around the UK, the bus is the easiest way to travel. You can get maps and timetables from the bus station and train station. You can also look at the [Wymetro website](http://www.wymetro.com) for information on bus routes and times.



National buses – You can travel longer distances by bus. The main bus company is called National Express. These are usually cheaper than trains. There is a main bus station in Leeds. See the website to find out about destinations and prices.
<http://www.nationalexpress.com/>

Trains – From Leeds train station you can get to most places in Britain quickly and easily. Train travel is a great way to see the country. It is more expensive than buses but is quicker and more comfortable for longer journeys. If you want to visit other cities it is always better to book train tickets at least a week



in advance as it is much cheaper. See the [Network Rail Leeds](#) website for information on destinations and prices. [The Train Line](#) website also offers tickets.

(Students can get discount for travel but remember to keep plenty of small change with you when travelling as not all drivers will change larger bank notes)

Traffic and Traffic Laws - Remember in the UK we drive on the left side of the road so when crossing make sure you look to the right for traffic first.



If you are driving here always make sure you know the laws and remember you need tax and insurance. Look at the [Highway Code](#) website to get more information. Your car also needs a special test to make sure it is safe. This is called an [MOT](#). Make sure you do not drive too fast as our traffic signs are miles per hour and not kilometers. You must not drive under the influence of alcohol. This can be very dangerous and is illegal. You may also need to transfer your licence to a UK licence if you are not from the EU. Look at [this website](#) for more information

Money and valuables - It is a good idea to keep your money, passport and valuables somewhere safe and do not carry large amounts of money around with you. It is always best to open a bank account if you are here for 6 months or longer and then you can take small amounts out when needed. We will help you to open a bank account. There are plenty of cash machines available in and around Leeds. (It is always a good idea to take money out when there are people around and not late at night where it is quiet.

Out and About – Like any major city Leeds has crime. You need to be aware of pickpockets and be careful if you are out in the evening. To drink alcohol you must be at least 18. Taking or having any kind of drugs is illegal and there are strong penalties if you are caught. Don't buy any drugs or other substances from anyone.

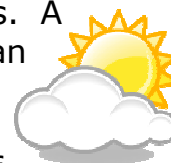
Police Registration - Most international students need to register with the police within 7 days of arrival. It will be stamped in your passport on your visa page if you need to do this. It is important that you remember to do this and also inform them if you move address or change school. We will help you to register with the police.

Doctors and Health – When you first arrive it is very important that you register with a local doctor. We will help you find a local doctor. You may not be ill but registering can take a few days to organize and it saves time later on if you are ill and need to see a doctor urgently. For all minor ailments (non emergency treatment) you make an appointment with a doctor. For an emergency situation you call 999 and ask for an ambulance. You also call 999 if you need the fire brigade or the police, (this is for emergencies only).



Insurance - It is a good idea to have personal insurance if you are a student. You can organize this before you arrive, but you can also organize this after you arrive. We can help you find an insurance provider when you arrive.

Weather – The weather is very changeable in the UK. It is always a good idea to listen to the weather reports. A good tip is to always carry an umbrella. It can be sunny in the morning and then heavy rain in the afternoon. May, June, July and August are the warmer months but we can still have a lot of rain. It can be quite cool, even in summer, so bring a jumper and jacket. During winter there are fewer hours of daylight and it is cold. You will need a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves. The [BBC website](#) will give you the five-day weather forecast for Leeds.



Shopping - There are many shops to cater for all budgets in Leeds. Most shops open at 9.00 am and close about 5.30 to 6.00pm. However, the supermarkets and smaller grocery shops open later and some supermarkets are open 24 hours. [The Leeds Live it Love it](#) website will tell you more.



Sports and keeping fit – If you are interested in watching sport there are many local teams in Leeds including [Leeds United Football Club](#), [Leeds Rhinos Rugby Club](#) and [Yorkshire Cricket Club](#). If you want to take part in sporting activities you will find a lot of leisure centres and sports clubs. There are also many gyms and fitness centres in and around Leeds. [The Leeds Live it Love it](#) website will help you.

Tourist Information – This is a useful place to pick up maps and information about things to see and do in and around Leeds. It is a good idea to carry a map with you at all times and



useful telephone numbers in case you get lost. The [Tourist Information Office](#) website will show you where it is located.

Cost of living -

Type of accommodation	Costs (single student per week)	Single student per week
Homestay	Rent (including utility bills)	£115 (plus £250 deposit)
Halls of residence	Rent (including utility bills)	£70 - 145
Private sector residence	Rent (not including utility bills)	£50 - 150

Estimated living costs for a single student per week 2009 in £ sterling

Food and toiletries £35 - £40

Laundry £5

Local travel £10

Study costs (books, stationery, photocopying, printing) £10

TV licence for room £2.68

Leisure £15.00

The above living cost figures do not include:

- Tuition fees
- Accommodation costs (rent and utility bills)
- Clothing
- Household goods
- Cafe and restaurant food
- Telephone/mobile phone costs
- Return international travel and visa fees
- Insurance (travel/health/driving/possessions)
- Luxury items and leisure travel



We will give you more information on your first day at the school. If you have any specific questions you can email us info@leedsenglish.com or ask us when you arrive.