

Before you buy or pack

Check your own accommodation details first. What is supplied and what is allowed varies.

- ☐ Read the bedroom and shared-area inventory
- ☐ Confirm the bed and mattress size
- ☐ Check whether the accommodation is catered or self-catered
- ☐ Read the rules for electrical items, decorations and fixings
- ☐ Check which kitchen and cleaning appliances are supplied
- ☐ Ask future housemates about items that can be shared
- ☐ Confirm your move-in date, arrival window and key collection
- ☐ Check parking, unloading time and the route to your room
- ☐ Ask your department before buying course-specific equipment
- ☐ Check current NHS and university health or vaccination advice

Plan and pack the move

This is the practical list for getting everything from one address to the other.

- ☐ Full collection and delivery addresses
- ☐ A contact number for both addresses
- ☐ A complete list of boxes, bags and bulky items
- ☐ Measurements for furniture or awkward items
- ☐ Notes on stairs, lifts, corridors and access at both ends
- ☐ The lifting help needed at collection and delivery
- ☐ Strong boxes, tape, marker pens and labels
- ☐ Protection for screens, crockery and fragile items
- ☐ Small labelled bags for cables, screws and furniture fixings
- ☐ Keep each box light enough for one person to lift safely
- ☐ Wrap and clearly label kitchen knives and other sharp items

Documents and check-in

Keep originals and anything needed on arrival with you, not in the moving load.

- ☐ Photo ID, such as a passport or driving licence
- ☐ University enrolment or acceptance details
- ☐ Accommodation confirmation and contract
- ☐ Key collection or check-in instructions
- ☐ Student finance, scholarship or bursary information
- ☐ Bank card and essential payment details
- ☐ NHS number, prescription details and medical information you need
- ☐ Contents or travel insurance documents, where relevant
- ☐ Digital copies of important documents stored securely

Bedroom and bedding

Check the room inventory and bed size before buying anything bulky.

- ☐ Duvet and duvet cover
- ☐ Pillows and pillowcases
- ☐ Fitted or flat sheets in the right size
- ☐ Mattress protector if one is not supplied
- ☐ A spare set of bed linen
- ☐ Clothes hangers
- ☐ Laundry bag or basket
- ☐ A clothes airer if the accommodation allows one
- ☐ A few permitted photos or familiar things for the room

Clothes and everyday kit

Pack for the next part of the year, not every season at once.

- ☐ Everyday clothes, underwear and socks
- ☐ Pyjamas, dressing gown and slippers
- ☐ Warm layers and a waterproof coat
- ☐ Comfortable everyday shoes
- ☐ Smart clothes for interviews, placements or formal events
- ☐ Sportswear, swimwear or club kit you will use
- ☐ Course or placement clothing, if required
- ☐ Umbrella and a practical day bag

Study and technology

Buy specialist equipment only after checking your department's requirements.

- ☐ Laptop or tablet and a protective case
- ☐ Mobile phone
- ☐ Chargers for every device
- ☐ Headphones or earphones
- ☐ Extension lead only if it meets the accommodation rules
- ☐ Do not overload or daisy-chain extension leads
- ☐ Ethernet cable if the residence recommends one
- ☐ Notebook, pens and the stationery you actually use
- ☐ Calculator or course equipment where required
- ☐ Rucksack or bag suitable for a laptop and books

Kitchen and food

Coordinate shared items first. Check the hob type before buying pans.

- ☐ Plate, bowl, mug and drinking glass
- ☐ Knife, fork, spoon and teaspoon
- ☐ One saucepan with a lid
- ☐ Frying pan or wok, depending on what you cook
- ☐ Chopping board and a useful kitchen knife
- ☐ Spatula, wooden spoon or tongs
- ☐ Tin opener and bottle opener
- ☐ Colander or sieve
- ☐ Baking tray or oven dish if you will use one
- ☐ Measuring jug
- ☐ Food storage containers
- ☐ Tea towels and oven gloves
- ☐ Washing-up liquid and a sponge or brush
- ☐ Bin bags, foil or reusable food wraps
- ☐ A small amount of food and drink for the first day

Bathroom, health and cleaning

Some halls clean shared areas or provide equipment, so check before doubling up.

- ☐ Bath towel and hand towel
- ☐ Toiletries and a wash bag or shower caddy
- ☐ Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and shampoo
- ☐ Sliders or shower shoes for a shared bathroom
- ☐ Toilet roll for the first day
- ☐ Prescription medication and a copy of the prescription
- ☐ Glasses, contact lenses and solution, where needed
- ☐ Sanitary products and personal-care items
- ☐ Basic first-aid supplies you know how to use
- ☐ Surface cleaner and cloths if they are not supplied
- ☐ Toilet cleaner and brush for a private bathroom, if needed
- ☐ Laundry detergent
- ☐ Cleaning gloves and a few bin liners

First-night bag

This bag stays with you and should be enough for the first evening and morning.

- ☐ Photo ID and check-in details
- ☐ Keys or key collection instructions
- ☐ Phone, charger and power bank
- ☐ Medication
- ☐ Wallet, bank card and valuables
- ☐ Water and an easy snack
- ☐ Toiletries, toilet roll and a towel
- ☐ Bedding if the bed is not already made
- ☐ Pyjamas and a change of clothes

Moving day

Keep the arrival instructions open and make sure the load matches your list.

- ☐ Recheck the arrival time, entrance and unloading instructions
- ☐ Charge your phone and keep both address contacts handy
- ☐ Take a final look through cupboards, drawers and behind doors
- ☐ Photograph the condition of the room you are leaving, where relevant
- ☐ Check every box and item against your list before departure
- ☐ Carry ID, medication, keys and valuables separately
- ☐ Follow the building's parking and unloading directions
- ☐ Put boxes straight into the room shown on each label
- ☐ Check the new room inventory before unpacking
- ☐ Photograph and report existing damage as instructed
- ☐ Take meter readings in a private rental where required
- ☐ Make the bed first and clear the unloading space promptly

First week

A short settling-in list for the jobs that are easily forgotten once the boxes are open.

- ☐ Finish enrolment and check your university email
- ☐ Update your term-time address where needed
- ☐ Register with a local GP if appropriate and note the nearest pharmacy
- ☐ Check what the rent includes and arrange only the utilities, meter accounts and broadband you are responsible for
- ☐ Check the household's council tax position and apply for any student exemption or discount
- ☐ Check whether you need a TV Licence for how and where you watch
- ☐ Agree shared purchases and cleaning with housemates
- ☐ Store valuables safely and use a strong lock for a bicycle
- ☐ Learn the fire-escape route, keep exits clear and report faulty smoke or carbon monoxide alarms

International students

Use this alongside the official travel and visa information issued for your circumstances.

- ☐ Passport, visa and right-to-study documents that apply to you
- ☐ Travel details and the full address of your accommodation
- ☐ University and accommodation contact numbers
- ☐ Medication, prescriptions and supporting letters you need
- ☐ Travel or health insurance documents, where relevant
- ☐ UK-compatible adaptors from a reputable retailer that meet current safety standards
- ☐ A secure digital backup of important documents

Leave at home or buy later

If the property supplies it, bans it or has nowhere to store it, it probably should not be in the van.

- ☐ Candles, incense and other items banned by your accommodation
- ☐ Furniture that is already supplied
- ☐ Duplicate kettles, toasters and shared appliances
- ☐ A printer unless your course genuinely needs one
- ☐ More clothes and shoes than the storage can hold
- ☐ Large quantities of food
- ☐ Bulky decorations and storage bought before seeing the room
- ☐ Old textbooks or books that are available digitally or in the library
- ☐ Electrical items that do not meet the accommodation rules