



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Support and Information for international student families at the University of Leeds

Contacts at the University of Leeds

Each year we welcome many students and their families to Leeds. You are welcome to contact Claire or the Student Information Service or the Student Visa Advice Team directly to enquire about your individual circumstances if you wish to.

Claire Zupnik (International Manager for Japan, South Korea and Taiwan in the University's International Office): C.E.Zupnik@leeds.ac.uk

Student Visa Advice Team (immigration and visa questions):
StudentVisaAdvice@leeds.ac.uk

Pre-arrival support for all students

Visit our pre-arrival webpages for information on [preparing for Leeds](#). If you have any questions about preparing for Leeds, contact our Student Information Service at: studentinfo@leeds.ac.uk.

The University can arrange arrival support for students arriving in Leeds for the first time, including an airport pick-up service from Leeds Bradford Airport and Manchester Airport.

Find out how to book this service on our [arrival support](#) page.

Welcome and Induction information

- **Undergraduate and Masters students**

Find useful information on resources to help you get started in Leeds, including recordings of our main international orientation talk and webinars on banking, healthcare and disability to listen to in your own time. You can also find more information on processes to complete on arrival on our [Welcome and Arrival](#) page.

- **International Families**

If you are coming to Leeds with family, please check information available for [International Families](#) on our website.

Our Leeds Global Community

Our Global Community events and activities connect students and researchers to intercultural opportunities, and give you the chance to get to know other members of the

student community. Find out more about our range activities available on [Global Community](#) page.

[HOST UK](#) organise visits for international students to spend a day or a weekend with a British family. You can include your husband, wife, partner or children as long as they are living in the UK for the duration of your study period, but HOST cannot accept applications from visiting family members or friends.

[Get out get active](#) (GOGA) run a range of activities for students, staff and members of the public, so partners of students, or children over the age of 17, can join in with a variety of sports either online or in person, such as running, climbing or yoga. They can also join in GOGA's various trips to see different parts of the UK.

Family Accommodation

The University has limited family accommodation, so it is essential to contact the University's [Accommodation Services](#) as early as possible to find out about availability. Many families also find a home in the private sector. Find out more here about [accommodation for families](#). The [Unipol website](#) has a useful tool that students can use to find out about different areas to live in Leeds, with information on how expensive it is to live there, information about the area itself and distance to the city centre and University.

Schools, Nurseries and Childcare

Students can apply for a Leeds school place before they arrive in the UK. They will need to provide their international address before their child has arrived in Leeds. As soon as students arrive in the UK, they need to send proof that they have moved to Leeds. This proof will be a home ownership document or tenancy agreement and a travel ticket to show that your child is in Leeds. Unfortunately, sometimes the Leeds City Council website will not work outside of the UK. If this is the case, students should apply for a school place for their child as soon as they arrive.

Find more information on our dedicated [Schools](#) and [Childcare](#) sections of our website.

If students are looking for childcare in their first few weeks, [Family Information Leeds](#) is a great website to use to find local childminders or childcare agencies. (Unfortunately, sometimes this website will not work outside of the UK.)

[Bright Beginnings Childcare Centre](#) is a childcare centre based on the University campus that offers a range of services for students, including childcare for children from the age of three months until the term before their 5th birthday (pre-school) and a play scheme during school holidays for children aged between 3 and 11 years.

Childcare can be expensive in the UK so it's important that students budget for this.

Childcare for children under the age of 3 years

If you have children under the age of 3 years, (the age at which a child starts Nursery - also known as Kindergarten), you can find out more information about [finding childcare](#) on our website.

Childcare or nursery for 3-4 year olds

All children between the ages of 3 and 4 in England are entitled to free childcare or nursery places for at least 15 hours per week, whatever visa you are on. If one of the parents works, they may be entitled to more. For further details, please visit the government's [Childcare Choices](#).

Children above 5 years applying to School in the UK

All children in the UK from 5 to 16 years old are required to attend school. Under current law, children in England must be in education from the term (semester) after their 5th birthday.

Leeds City Council publish weekly 'primary school [vacancy lists](#)' and 'secondary school [vacancy lists](#)' indicating the spaces available at each school every week. If a vacancy is available, all children should apply through the Leeds City Council [Apply for a school place form](#). Students who want to find information about individual schools, including the different services available, may find it helpful to visit the individual school's websites.

Find more information on how to apply for schools on our [Schools](#) page.

It is important to note that the information above is applicable to free, state schools. If a student wants to pay for private (also known as independent) education for their child, then they will have to apply to schools directly. Information on private education in England can be found on the [Independent Schools Council website](#).

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Children and young people aged up to 25 with special educational needs or a disability, who need more support than that regularly provided by a school can apply for an education, health and care (EHC) plan. The EHC plan identifies educational, health and social needs and sets out the additional support required to meet those needs. It will also advise on whether the child's needs can be met in the mainstream system, or whether a specialist school is required, and if so, which school. To find out more about EHC and how to apply, please look at the [SEND website](#).

Healthcare and wellbeing

You should register yourself and your family with a General Practitioner (GP) doctor as soon as possible after arrival in Leeds. Find out more about how to register and what healthcare you are entitled to on our pages [here](#). Primary care and emergency healthcare are free for everyone in the UK. More information on student support and wellbeing is [here](#).

Public transport

Travel on [First Bus Leeds](#) is free for children under 5 years old. 5-10 year olds pay half of the adult fare on the buses, and 11-18 year olds can get a half fare, but only if they have an [MCard](#).

If you are planning to travel around the UK by train as a family, it is often cheaper if you buy a [family railcard](#). The railcard costs £30 for a year and you can save up to a third on adult fares and up to 60% on children's fares. Train fares are also often a lot cheaper if purchased in advance, and if you choose to travel at a specific time, rather than with a flexible ticket.

Several taxi companies in Leeds will provide a baby/child seat when pre-booked. When booking a taxi ask about car seats, there is usually an additional cost for this service.

More information can also be found on [Local transport and finding your way around](#).

[Family activities and days out in the area](#)

There are lots of fun activities for families in and around Leeds, including parks, museums, country houses, and a wide variety of sports and activities. Museums are often free to visit, and there are a large range of interesting museums with activities for children in Leeds, Bradford and York, as well as further afield. The following websites give suggestions for family days out:

- [20 Free Things To Do With the Kids in Leeds](#)
- [Best Things To Do & Days Out In West Yorkshire](#)
- [National Trust in Yorkshire](#)
- [The best places to go & things to do around West Yorkshire](#)

All information is correct at time of publication (March 2024), but please check information on linked webpages for up-to-date information and pricing.