

**LEEDS
CONSERVATOIRE**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS'

ARRIVAL

GUIDE 2025



W E L C O





ME

CONTENTS

YOUR ARRIVAL GUIDE 2025

- 04 Your Arrival Checklist
- 05 Welcome to Leeds Conservatoire
- 06 Student Life in Leeds
- 08 Leeds Conservatoire Students' Union
- 09 Useful Tips & Important Things to Know
- 13 Student Services
- 15 Useful Websites & Telephone Numbers



YOUR ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

What to do:

Manage your e-Visa

UKVI are now issuing e-visas to all new international students in the UK. Make sure you:

-Set up a UKVI account and link your passport to it (<https://www.gov.uk/evisa/set-up-ukvi-account>)

-Keep your contact details up to date in your account

-Know how to generate a share code which proves your immigration status for people like employers or landlords

Register with a Doctor

When you pay your Immigration Health surcharge it gives you access to the health service in the same way a UK resident would.

Hopefully you will not need any medical services whilst in the UK but it is best to be prepared and register as soon as you can when you arrive. Leeds Conservatoire students can register at Leeds Student Medical Practice.

You can register online here: <https://www.leedsstudentmedicalpractice.co.uk/practice-information/new-patients/>

Alternatively you can find a GP (Doctor) using the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp/>

Should you need assistance please send an email to HealthandWellbeing@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.

Open a Bank Account

Once you have selected a specific bank, you will need a letter from Leeds Conservatoire confirming your enrolment. You will be able to obtain this through your student portal. We also have some useful information on our website: <https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/courses/apply-audition-fees/international-applicants/fees-funding/money-living-costs/>

Get your National Insurance Number (often called NI number)

You will need an NI number if you want to, and are permitted to work in the UK..

It is easy to apply via the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number/how-to-apply>

Sign up for induction activities at Leeds Conservatoire

You will have already received information about registration and induction activities. If you have any questions please contact studentunion@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.

While you can follow them on Instagram: [@lcsu_](#) and Facebook: [Leeds Conservatoire Students' Union](#) for regular updates on upcoming events and much more.



WELCOME TO LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Welcome to Leeds Conservatoire, one of Europe's leading conservatoires, teaching over 1600 music students who represent over 26 countries worldwide!

From a Welcome Talk in Welcome Week to an orientation tour of Leeds, the conservatoire arranges activities and events to help you meet fellow students, find your way around Leeds and feel at home. While our SU and international team organises a variety of social and cultural events throughout the year.

Facilities

- The Café:Bar is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, selling great value food with discounted rates for students.
- We have over 100 top-of-the-range iMac workstations spread across 6 Mac Labs in the conservatoire, open extended hours during term time. Each of our 100+ workstations has industry-standard software and hardware.
- Events and performances at Leeds Conservatoire are held in our 350-seat auditorium called The Venue and 120-seat Recital Room. We also host gigs, recitals, workshops, masterclasses, talks from industry professionals, lunchtime concerts and film showcases in The Venue and Recital Room.
- To find out more about the facilities and studio spaces available at Leeds Conservatoire please visit our website www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk



STUDENT LIFE IN LEEDS

The UK is one of the most popular destinations for musicians who want to study abroad.

Leeds is the UK's third biggest, fastest growing city, with a population of over 200,000 students.

With a thriving music scene, an abundance of events, an eclectic cultural calendar and an e growing food and drink sector, we can safely say that life in Leeds is never dull!

Culture

Leeds has plenty to offer even the most avid culture-vulture. Leeds has a great art scene, ranging from the grandeur of the Henry Moore Institute to unique, independent galleries. Leeds has a selection of independent cinemas and theatres to choose from, and is also home to Opera North, Northern Ballet, and Leeds Playhouse.

Outdoor & Sports

In and around Leeds you'll find plenty of places to enjoy the great outdoors! The Meanwood Valley Trail provides a great track for walkers and cyclists, whilst the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and breath-taking Yorkshire Dales are well within day-tripping distance. Sports fan? You'll be able to catch football, rugby and cricket in Leeds, along with the annual Tour De Yorkshire!

Faith & Places of Worship

If faith is an important aspect in your life, it may be beneficial to find ways of connecting with others whilst you are studying here, particularly if you are missing home. Leeds University Union (LUU) has several faith-based societies, ranging from The Hindu Students Forum to the Buddhist Meditation Society, and everything in between! They welcome all Leeds students. Further details can be found under the 'Faith' category on the LUU website at: <https://www.luu.org.uk/groups/>. Further useful links are: www.bbc.co.uk/leeds/features/living/faith/links.shtml and www.happy.co.uk/about-happy/free-publications/festivals/.

Venues

The Leeds music scene is booming, and with the range of superb venues, forward-thinking promoters and creative curators, the Leeds music community is the perfect platform for any musician. With an impressive raft of venues across the city, there's always a choice of artists to see any day of the week.

Festivals

Leeds has a festival for just about everything – and over the course of the year you'll find city-wide celebrations of music, film, digital, food, beer, art, and even wellness! With a varied calendar that includes alternative music giants Leeds Festival, Leeds International Film Festival, Leeds Piano, Slam Dunk Festival, Leeds West Indian Carnival and Leeds Pride, throughout the year there's nearly always a festival in full swing. Don't miss Leeds International Festival – a multi-disciplinary festival across the city which incorporates the acclaimed metropolitan music festival, Live at Leeds. To see the city in a completely different way check out Light Night – the arts festival that transforms the city with spectacular installations and visual projections!

Food & Drink

You'll never be short of something new to try in the Leeds food and drink sector.

From the eternally rotating line-up of street food vendors at Trinity Kitchen and the Belgrave Street Feast, to the array of delicious independent cafes and international cuisine, Leeds is a gourmand's delight. We're not short of a tasty drop to drink either – with craft breweries, top-notch cocktail bars and splendid coffee houses throughout the city.

<https://www.visitleeds.co.uk> is a great website to find out more about this exciting city.

LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE STUDENTS' UNION (LCSU)

A big congratulations to everyone who has secured their place at Leeds Conservatoire this year! I'm Erin McCafferty, your 2025–26 Students' Union President, and I'm here to welcome you to an incredible new stage of your life!

We understand that moving to a new country can be exciting, daunting and possibly overwhelming - but don't worry, the Students' Union is here to support you and make the transition as smooth as possible.

Our SU is made up of a small but dedicated team: myself, our Students' Union Coordinator Izzy Hobbs, and a team of student representatives who form the Student Council - including your International Student Representative. Our office is open Monday to Friday, 9AM–5PM, so pop by Room 437 (St Peter's Square), grab a cup of tea, and come have a chat!

The Students' Union is here to look after your welfare and overall student experience. We:

- Collect and act on your feedback
- Organise events and live gigs
- Run all student-led societies
- Host your Welcome Weeks Programme

Speaking of which, our Welcome Weeks will run from 6–21 September, and we'd love for you to get involved! From live gigs to game nights and society fairs, there's something for everyone. Keep an eye on our website for Welcome Week updates here.

We also offer small extras to support your wellbeing — like our wellbeing trolley, which is regularly stocked with free essentials for you to take if you need them.

For updates, questions, or just to say hi, here's how to find us:

Office: Room 437, St Peter's Square

Email: studentunion@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk

Website: <https://linktr.ee/lcsu>

Instagram: @lcsu_ or @erinsupresident

We can't wait to meet you all!

Erin and the SU Team



Erin McCafferty
Your President



Izzy Hobbs
Your Students' Union &
Student Voice Coordinator



USEFUL TIPS & IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Keeping you & your valuables safe

Follow a few simple tips to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime as unfortunately students can be seen as easy targets by criminals. The simplest thing you can do to keep safe is to stick to busy, well-lit streets. Don't take shortcuts and try to walk with confidence and with a group of friends.

As with all valuables (laptops, iphones, etc), putting them on show could tempt a passing mugger or thief. Many mobile phones are stolen in bars and clubs when they are left on a table or a nearby seat. Open handbags, coats on the back of a chair and rucksacks are all tempting to a thief.

If an attacker attempts to take something from you; let them. You are worth more than any gadget.

If you need a taxi after a night out, always carry the number of a reputable, licensed company with you so you can pre-book before the night is over. When you are in a bar or club be aware of drink spiking. Never accept a drink from someone you don't know and if you do, make sure you go to the bar with them and see the drink being poured. Never leave your drink unattended.

Close and lock windows and doors in your accommodation, even if you're only going out for a short time. Most thefts in halls of residence occur when students go out of their rooms for short periods of time (e.g. to the common room or to a friend's room).

Crimes committed against someone because of their race, religion or belief, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation are known as hate crimes and should be reported to the police. You may be unsure whether the incident is a criminal offence, or you may think it's not serious enough to be reported. However, if you are distressed and want something done about what happened, it's always best to report it. You can report hate crimes anonymously or on behalf of a friend. Refer to the 'useful contacts' section.

Working during your studies

You must not work if you are not allowed to do so. Students studying under a Student Visa who were granted a study visa are generally allowed to work up to 20 hours per week but there are some restrictions on the type of work you can do.

You cannot be self-employed, or work as an entertainer so for example you can't teach someone how to play a guitar.

Insurance

You are strongly advised to organise insurance for your possessions, particularly if you have brought expensive musical instruments to the UK. You will need to be insured against theft as well as accidental damage. The cost of insurance can be quite high so it is worth looking at a few policies before signing. You will find some contact details for insurance companies at the back of this booklet. We recommend you register any electrical goods such as mobile phones, iPods, MP3 players and laptops (in fact any item with a serial number) on the national property database for free. Visit www.immobilise.com. Police check this database in the event stolen goods are recovered, and can give them back to their rightful owner.

Immigration Health Charge

To move to the UK, please be aware that students on Student Visas will need to pay a health surcharge in order to be covered by the National Health Service.

For more details please go to the following website:

<https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/payment/start>

TV Licence

If you have an individual tenancy agreement for your room whether in purpose-built student accommodation or a shared house, you will need to buy a TV licence if you intend to watch or record any live TV on any channel, no matter what device you use. You also need to be covered by a TV licence to download or watch BBC programmes on demand-including catch up TV-on BBC iPlayer. This applies to all devices, including a smart TV, desktop computer or laptop, mobile phone, tablet, digital box or games console.

For more information, visit www.tvlicensing.co.uk/students

Cycling in the UK

The Education UK guide to cycling in the UK is available online at: www.educationuk.org/global/articles/essential-guide-to-cycling/.

You must adhere to the rules and requirements of the cycling section of the government published 'Highway Code'. This is a book of rules and regulations for pedestrians, cyclists, animals (mostly horses) and drivers when using the highways and byways of Britain it is published online at: <https://www.gov.uk/highway-code>. You should read the section on 'Rules for cyclists' (59–82).

Some bike racks are available at the front of the conservatoire to lock your bike.

Settling into Student Life in Leeds

A new country, a new city, a new home and new people. Coming to the UK to study is a life changing experience and it's not surprising that as well as the highs of experiencing new things, some international students feel the lows too. Missing friends, family and the familiar surroundings of home is perfectly normal. It's important to remember that everyone, even the most outgoing students, can feel homesick from time to time.

Some international students experience what is known as 'culture shock', caused by moving from one culture to another. This is a very normal reaction as you get used to living in a new city, the British weather and different social conventions and it usually passes very quickly as you settle into student life. The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) have published online advice and guidance on culture shock at: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Preparation-and-Arrival/Facing-culture-shock

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you feel you are not coping or need someone to talk to. The friendly staff in Student Services are available to support you and can be contacted via their email contacts listed on page 14.

Nightline

If you would prefer to speak to someone outside the conservatoire, try telephoning Nightline. This is a confidential listening service run by students for students in Leeds. Tel: 0113 3801381 between 8pm and 8am. Further details are online at: www.leedsnightline.co.uk/

UK Travel Information and Advice

If you want to travel around the UK during the conservatoire vacations please refer to the information and guidance on the British Council website at: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/living/regions>

Schengen Visa

Students who are studying at Leeds Conservatoire on a Student Visa may need to apply for a Schengen Visa to travel between countries within the European Economic Area (EEA). Some travel agents can arrange a Schengen Visa for you as part of an overall travel package. Omega Travel can do this for you and contact details for Omega Travel are available on their website at: <http://uk.omegatravel.net/>.

Student Discounts

As a student at Leeds Conservatoire, you are eligible for a NUS (National Union of Students)/Totum Card. It gives you discounts at a variety of shops, restaurants and on other things like haircuts, phone deals or cinema tickets. It's a good idea to ask in shops and restaurants whether they offer student discounts – some places do even when they don't advertise it on their website or app.

You can sign up for your card here: www.totum.com. Remember, life as a student does not have to be expensive! You can talk to our Student Funding Team or our International Student Wellbeing Adviser for some tips on how to save money while studying in Leeds.

Embassies and Consulates Worldwide

It may be a good idea to make a note of the address and contact details of your embassies in the countries you will be exploring during your vacation just in case you need to contact them in an emergency (for example if you lose your passport). You can search for your embassy details using the following website: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/>

Any Questions?

If at any point you have questions or concerns, the friendly staff in Student Services are available to support you. They can be reached via their email contacts listed on page 14.





STUDENT SUPPORT & WELLBEING

Supporting you Every Step of the Way

Being a student from outside of the United Kingdom can be exciting, but can also be daunting for some at times. Our Student Support & Wellbeing staff are here to help you to settle into your new environment and make the most of your time studying with us.

Further information follows that covers what each of the Student Support and Wellbeing teams' offer, including contact information for each of the Disability Support, Health and Wellbeing, Funding and Accommodation teams.

Each teams' services can be accessed by filling out the Student Support Referral Form (linked here: <https://leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/student-life/student-support/student-support-referral-form>).

Otherwise, you can attend events, talks and activities throughout the year, or email our teams using the respective email addresses that follow if you have any specific queries, which may include queries about accommodation, student funding, finances, wellbeing, disability support, reasonable adjustments, local knowledge and cultural matters to name a few.

Skills for Learning Drop-Ins

Our Skills for Learning team runs drop-in sessions where students can get support and advice on academic work. The sessions are open to all students and international students find them very helpful. For more information please access the Skills for Learning & Digital Skills page on Space. You can ask the team for help with issues such as time management, notetaking, planning and building motivation, too.

STUDENT SUPPORT & WELLBEING

Health & Wellbeing

Our Health and Wellbeing Team are here to support you throughout your time at Leeds Conservatoire. We can provide informal advice on how to manage your wellbeing and mental health, how to cope with homesickness and how to adjust to the practical things in your new life in the UK (like registering with a doctor).

Please contact us via email
HealthandWellbeing@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.

Accommodation

We hope you are settling into your new accommodation but if you are concerned about anything or need help finding somewhere to live next year, please get in touch with the Accommodation Adviser via email accommodation@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.

Disability

Our Disability Advisers are available to discuss your support needs to make sure that you receive bespoke advice, guidance, support and adjustments to ensure you can succeed in your studies. Please tell us about any disability, neurodiversity, mental-health condition or long-term health condition by using the Student Support Referral Form on the Leeds Conservatoire website.

Should you have any queries please contact:
disability@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.

Student Funding

If you are struggling to understand how student finance works, you need to find out what funding you may be eligible for, or you need help to manage your money, the Student Funding Team can help. Contact:
studentfunding@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.



Kirstin Thompson
Head of Student
Support and
Wellbeing



Daniela Bonitz
Health & Wellbeing
Manager -
International Lead



Dawn Moore
Student
Accommodation
Adviser



Stephanie Bradbury
Student
Accommodation
Adviser -
International Lead



Donna Royal
Disability Adviser



Nicholas White
Disability Support
Manager



Manjit Sangha
Funding &
Accommodation
Manager



Carmen McLean
Student Funding Adviser

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you are unsure who to contact at the Conservatoire, please email help@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk and we will signpost you to the right person.

Nightline:
www.leedsnightline.co.uk

British Council:
www.britishcouncil.org.uk

UK Visa & Immigration:
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration

General Health:
www.nhs.uk
Telephone 111

Sexual Health:
www.leedssexualhealth.com

UKCISA, Council for International Education:
enquiries@ukcisa.org.uk
Telephone: 0171 354 5210

Insurance specifically for students:
<https://www.howdeninsurance.co.uk/personal/student/>

Specialist musical instrument insurance:
www.allianzmusic.co.uk

Help & support for both victims & witnesses of crime:
www.victimsupport.org.uk
Telephone: 0808 1689111

Local crime information, including how to report a crime. In an emergency, dial **999**. For nonemergencies dial **101**
www.westyorkshire.police.uk

Report a hate crime to this organisation (this can be done anonymously). Otherwise, contact the police by telephoning **101** (non-emergency) or **999** (if it's an emergency).
www.stophateuk.org/talk-to-us/

This brochure is available
as a large print PDF. Please
contact: hello@lcm.ac.uk

Leeds Conservatoire
3 Quarry Hill,
Leeds, LS2 7PD

Email: international@lcm.ac.uk
www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk

 [@LeedsMusicDrama](https://twitter.com/LeedsMusicDrama)

 [@LeedsConservatoire](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsConservatoire)