

London Student Guide

elephant Minds

2018-2019



Congratulations!

You have been blessed with an opportunity to study in a land covered by eye catching scenery, a lush green countryside, amazing historic buildings, modern multicultural energy, quaint traditions, ancient woods, a land home to rock and pop, where the people have a mixture of fairness, politeness and humor in their unique use of words.

In short, this may just be the beginning of an exceptional journey you are about to embark on, and fairly enough, you might be a bit nervous. However, this guide will ensure that you have nothing to worry about. Along with this guide and the help you will receive from our Team, nothing can possibly go wrong, our elephant Minds are here to help you.

elephant Minds

www.elephantminds.co.uk

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London skyline

Introduction to London

One name you might consistently find among the list of best student cities to live in according to various surveys, is London.

The UK's capital surged its standards and quality last year to move up two more places in the rankings reaching the third spot in the QS Best Student Cities Ranking. When next year's ranking is released, the capital is expected to rise up the scale even further.

The city is home to numerous well-known old universities, and these also include a mixture of foreign influences along with a valuable blend of Fortune 500 companies, making it the epicenter of business, finance, language and culture. This is exactly what makes London stand out from the rest.

Tower Bridge, London



Studying in London

ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST

You are advised to get in touch with our Team without any hesitation in case you have any questions, as we always seek to assist students in any way we can. If you wish further support, we recommend you visit the British Council's website, as they carry out pre-departure briefings for students all over the world in order to assist them with any possible queries.

You should also speak to your airline and figure out the weight limit of the luggage you are allowed to carry on the flight. Keep in mind that you will be able to purchase most things after your arrival in London.

When it comes to the weather, things can be very unpredictable, which is why the British people love speaking about it! June to August in the country is summer, where the average temperature falls between the 10° to 30°C range, whereas between December and February comes true winter and the temperature stays between 1°C to 5°C, and in some cases, much colder.





HAVE A LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST

- Enough clothing and shoes to suit all types of weather and temperatures.
- Umbrella.
- A thick jacket that protects you from winter and rain.
- Comfortable walking shoes.
- A good outfit for special and formal occasions. A suit jacket and tie could be perfect.
- Adaptors to connect various electronic items.
- Books that you feel may be useful for your new course.
- Items that make you feel more homely, similar to the ones you keep back at home in your own room, such as photos, posters, and whatever else you prefer.
- A backpack or day bag, keep a small one for daily use and a larger one for the weekends.
- A good amount of prescription drugs to serve you throughout your stay. However, do make sure that there are no restrictions on those drugs in the country and that you possess the required documentation such as a legitimate prescription or a note from the doctor.
- Contact lenses, solution and an appropriate case. You have to ensure you keep every single thing you need with you abroad, or as an alternative, you can check the items that might be available in the UK.
- Glasses, and a case for the same. Recommended to include a spare one.
- Charger and laptop. Cables
- A camera.
- A language dictionary.

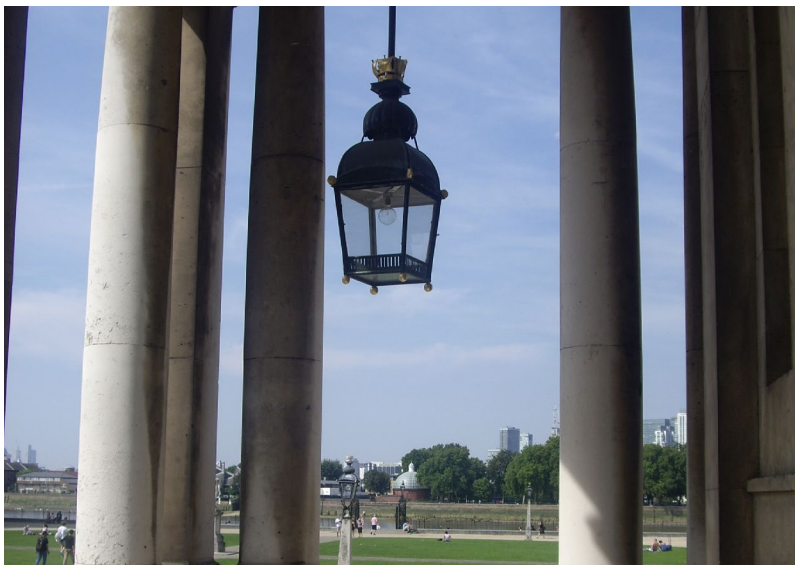
Living cost for a Student in London

Apart from the tuition fees that you will pay (or have paid), the cost of living depends entirely on your own lifestyle as well as the places you choose for accommodation in London. Contact us for further details.

HOW MUCH MONEY DO I NEED?

In order to study in London long term, the UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) requires you to have a minimum £1,265 budget every month, and this does not include your tuition fee. To be eligible for a Tier 4 visa, it is important to prove that you have this amount each month of your studying days. Hence, you may need about £11,385 if you wish to finish a course that lasts at least nine months. Once again, this does not include your tuition fees.

Based on your chosen accommodation region and type, and also the location of your residence, the cost of student accommodation can vary. You are advised to read about student accommodation in London. According to the government, apart from costs related to accommodation, you may also need around £104 weekly in order to cover your cost of living, however this is going to depend on how frequently you head out and socialize.



Use a [student budget calculator](#) in order to calculate your costs of living in London.

<
London park

YOUR HOST FAMILY

Many a times, students opt for the “Staying with a host family” option when they move away from their own homes for the first time. These international students wish to be a part of the British family life, or simply improve their English language skills with a local host. The families our students may stay with could be couples with children at home, a single person or single parent, and elderly couple who enjoys the company

of interesting people and wish to share their home. Most times, accommodation in homestay families is catered half board (breakfast & dinner) and the host family shares the meals with students. Self-catering may also be arranged. Students on our elephant Minds Homestay Teaching Immersive Programmes enjoy full-board accommodation with a host family carefully selected for each of them.

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London at night

LIFE IN LONDON IS CHEAPER THAN YOU THINK

In various surveys, to your surprise, London has been voted as the most cost-effective city in the UK for students. The amount of part time jobs available is just impressive, and these jobs will help you support your studies and enjoy your life in London to the fullest as you study. Moreover, this work experience is surely going to look great on your CV.



HOW YOU CAN SAVE MONEY AS A STUDENT IN LONDON



Regent's Park

A wide range of seminars, lectures and free events are carried out throughout London during the entire year. More information at *Visit London*.

Check out *Transport for London* and try to get yourself a discounted student travel card that will let you save as much as 30% on your travelling.

Several student discounts are available that cover not only travel but also books, cinema and eating out at restaurants. More at *Visit London*.

You will never have to pay for the finest things in life when you live in London! Visit the Royal Parks by going to the historical parts of London and receive free entry to well-known museums and galleries. To know more check *Visit London*.

Do a good bit of research before you make your final choice of accommodation, as rent costs can be different based on where exactly you live in London.



Top 10 Student Attractions

Being an International student, probably your mind is filled with lots of questions about what to do or where to go in London. There are definitely lots of things to do and places to go to in the city. Here is a list of the top 10 international student attractions.

1

HOP ON HOP OFF TOUR

This is a fun-filled tour around the streets of London in different routes. During the tour, you are told about the rich history of each site.

2

THE TOWER OF LONDON

A truly wonderful and amazing place to visit

4

PICCADILLY CIRCUS

This is one of the busiest places in London and it is quite fun to travel through.

3

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

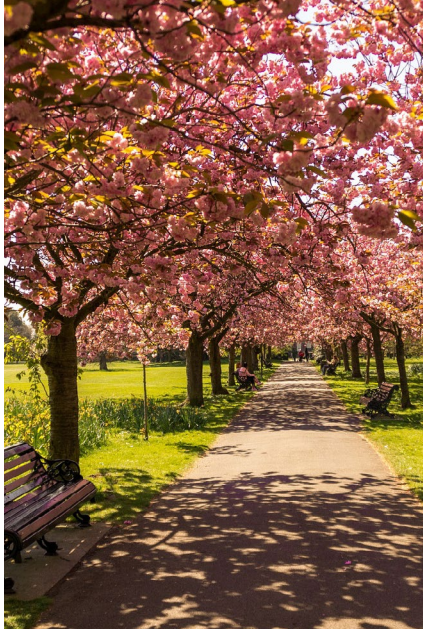
You would surely want to visit where the Royals live. The beautiful estate, the gates, and the well-dressed guards are amazing to see

5

BIG BEN AND WESTMINSTER ABBY

These two places are a must for every traveller and the perfect place to take your photographs.





^
Hyde Park

6

PICNIC IN HYDE PARK

One of the largest
and most elegant parks
in London.

7

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Filled with statues
and the world-famous
National Gallery.

9

LONDON EYE

The giant fair's
wheel right at the bank
of the River Thames.
The wheel provides an
amazing view of the
city when you get to the
top

10

FESTIVALS

There are also
lots of festivals you can
go to in London; arts,
food, music.

Big Ben
v



8

SHOWS

A city filled with
theatre shows and
musicals.

London Eye
v



Student Discounts and Offers

There are lots of student discounts you can enjoy on things like technology, food, clothes, helpful services, etc. by just displaying your student ID card in the UK. Students in London can enjoy up to 50% student discounts on computers, laptops and other technologies, and up to 25% student discounts on takeaways and restaurant food bills by simply presenting their student ID card at purchase. Here are some famous student discounts and offers in London: **Save The Student**, and **Student Money Saver**.

Student discount cards and online codes

<u>UNiDAYS</u>	This is an online student scheme where students can register for free and enjoy student discounts when they purchase products like handy smartphone apps, Urban Outfitters, ASOS and Apple.
<u>NUS Extra card</u>	Students pay £12 per year for this card and can enjoy exclusive student discounts up to £500 per year in London.
<u>Student Beans</u>	This is an online site that offers discounts that may not be found on UNiDAYS to London students. Student Beans features discounts on food brands like Papa John's, reduced student ticket price at Alton Towers, and 10% discount on Oliver Bonas.
<u>ISIC</u>	Students pay £12 per year for this card and receive student discounts in about 130 different countries.

Student discounts on clothing

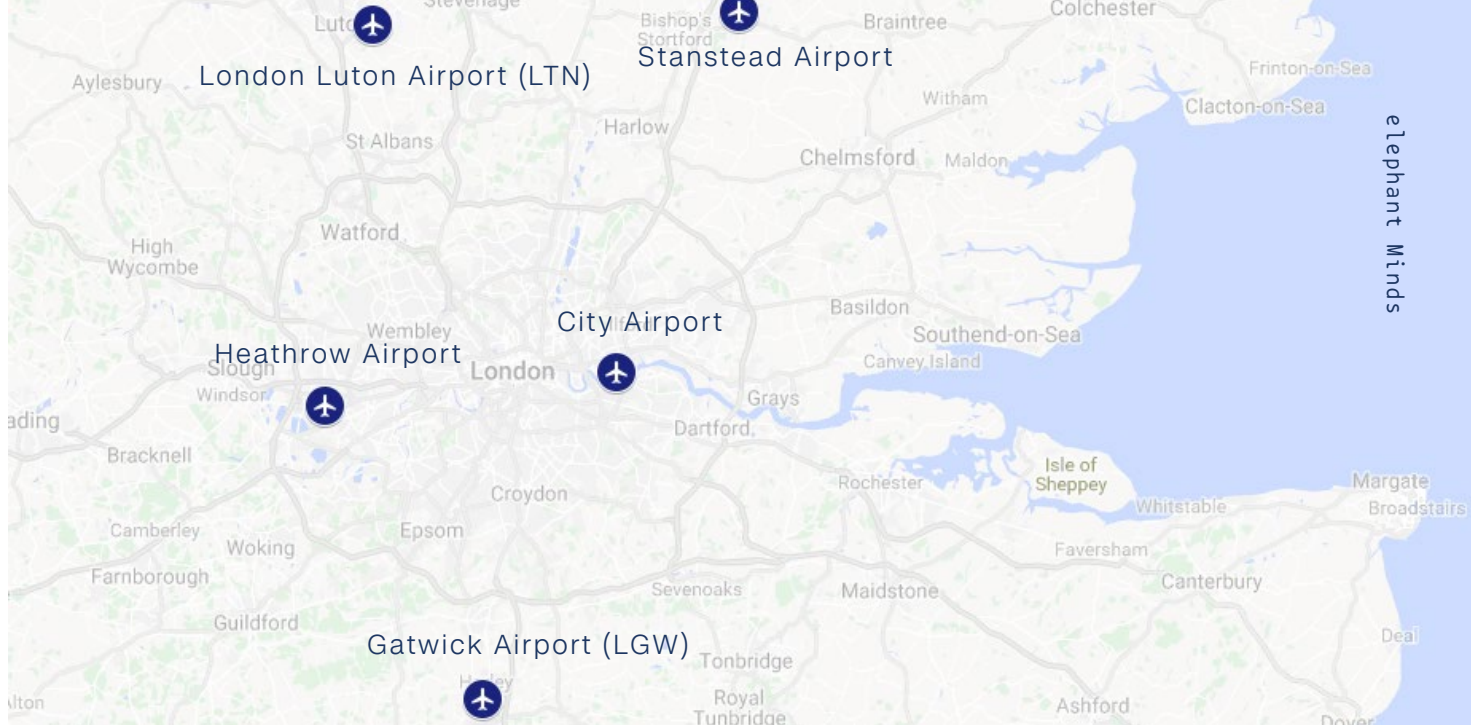
London students can enjoy 10% discount all year round from:

<u>New Look</u>	:	<u>Office (footwear)</u>	In store and online
<u>Urban Outfitters</u>	:	<u>French Connection</u>	In store and online
<u>Burton</u>	:	<u>Schuh</u>	In store and online
<u>Boohoo</u>	:	<u>Topman/Topshop</u>	Student must be a UNiDAYS member
	:	<u>ASOS</u>	Student must be a UNiDAYS member or have a NUS or NUS Extra card

Student discounts on food

<u>Krispy Kreme</u>	20% discount using the NUS Extra card.
<u>Gourmet Burger Kitchen</u>	25% discount using their app.
<u>Giraffe</u>	20% discount on total food bill with a NUS Extra card (Monday-Friday: all day, Sundays: 6pm downward).
<u>Dominos Pizza</u>	35% discount on online purchases worth at least £25
<u>ASK Italian</u>	40% discount every Mon and Tue, and 25% discount every Wed, Thu and Sun with a NUS Extra card.

*There are many more discounts that London students can enjoy. For updates and confirmation of any of these offers-valid at time of publication-please contact the businesses directly



Transport in and around London

DISTANCE TO/FROM MAIN AIRPORTS AND OUR OFFICE

TO/FROM GATWICK AIRPORT (LGW)

The underground could cost you £13-23 and would require an hour and 15 minutes. Buses can take up to 3 hours and 40 minutes and charge £10-13 for your trip, which would be the cheapest option. The other options include taxis, costing over £120 and travelling via car. **Gatwick:**

www.gatwickairport.com

TO/FROM LONDON LUTON AIRPORT (LTN)

You can expect a 52-minute journey if you opt for the train option to LTN, for about £10-£13. Buses are obviously the cheapest option, with the journey lasting about 1 hour and 30 minutes for £7-£9. Other options include taxis, and cars where taxi charges can range from £90 to £115.

Luton:

www.luton.co.uk

TO/FROM HEATHROW AIRPORT

All it takes is an hour for you to get her from Heathrow Airport if you choose the underground. The cost of the journey would be around £25-£35. A taxi would cost about £35. **Heathrow:**

www.heathrowairport.com

TO/FROM CITY AIRPORT

You can expect a 1.10-hour journey with the underground for about £10. A taxi would take about 50 minutes and may cost about £39.

City Airport:

www.londoncityairport.com

TO/FROM STANSTED AIRPORT

You can expect a 1.45-hour journey by public transport. A taxi would take about 1.10 hours and may cost about £50. **Stansted Airport:**

www.stanstedairport.com

USEFUL CONTACTS & LINKS

National Express: 08717 81 81 81

National Rail Enquiries: 03457 484950

www.traveline.info

www.tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/oyster/what-is-oyster

Card: Oyster is a plastic smartcard which can hold pay as you go credit, Travelcards and Bus & Tram Passes. You can use an Oyster card to travel on bus, Tube, tram, DLR, London Overground, TfL Rail, River Bus services and most National Rail services in London.

Nearest underground station to Big Ben



London arguably possesses the best integrated transport network system throughout the entire UK, which includes a bus, tube and tram system. This makes it very easy to travel across the city. For students trying to reach our Office, the bus or the underground may be the ideal way to go. It is extremely easy to also get in and out of London as there are various train stations that connect students to other towns and cities throughout the country.

CYCLING

London is home to a large cyclist network, cycle lanes are available on every major road. However, some areas or lanes run along with the bus route, which is why you should be careful, keep your eyes opened and always wear a helmet. It may be advisable to purchase a decent lock as London has surely seen some amount of bike thefts over the years.

You could also consider the new cycle hire scheme where you can pick up a bike at a certain stopping point, then ride it to the next stopping point for as cheap as £1 a day for non-members, and just 16p a day if you have an annual pass. Hargroves Cycles is a brand that delivers bikes to your doorstep if you'd like to book online.



BUSES AND TRAMS

As mentioned before, London has one of the best transport systems across the country. There are a large number of buses driving across the streets of London during all times of the day. Besides, the night buses in London are ideal for students as they allow them to get home from the clubs regardless of whatever time of the night it is. These buses and trams can allow you to travel pretty much anywhere you wish to in London but if you still feel a bit uncertain then you could simply plan your route with the help of the London bus journey planner.

TRAINS AND THE UNDERGROUND

London does not lack when it comes to overground railways and Underground stations. With a total of 9 zones to travel, the cost depends on which zone you travel to/from. Use the journey planner in order to plan the journey. A travel ticket may cost you somewhere between £1.90 and £12, and with an Oyster card you can definitely save up to £2 on a single fair in many cases. You can also buy a one-week pass ranging from £20-£50 based on which zone you choose, while a month pass costs around £75-£190. Buying for longer will help you save more.

London also has many overground stations such as Victoria and Euston. They connect with major cities all over the UK, Euston offers high-speed service to St. Pancras and Manchester, and even links with Paris.

Importance of health Insurance

The National Health Service (NHS) serves as the UK's standard state healthcare system that provides a massive range of health care services. You can trust the agency for doctor appointments, dental care and hospital treatments.

As soon as you arrive in-, you must register with a doctor if you are on a long term course. Talk to our Team for advice and the recommended Doctor's surgery (termed as General Practitioner or GP). You are going to need your passport as well as a letter from us in order to prove your student status.

[NHS National Health Service](#)

EEA NATIONALS

The Non-UK European Economic Area (EEA) nationals as well as their family members are advised to obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before they arrive in UK. For more information, check out www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/arriving/healthcare-uk

Ambulance: 999 or 112

Fire: 999 or 112

Police: 999 or 112

NHS Direct (24 hour health helpline): 111

MEDICAL
AND OTHER
EMERGENCY
CONTACTS

The Old Royal Naval College
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PLEASE NOTE THE LAWS ON ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO IN THE UK

It is illegal for young people to buy alcohol in the UK under the age of 18. Young people aged 16 or 17 can drink beer, wine or cider with a meal if it is bought by an adult and they are accompanied by an adult. It is illegal for this age group to drink spirits in pubs even with a meal. It is illegal for people under 18 to buy alcohol in a pub, off-licence, shop or elsewhere. It is legal to smoke in outside public places at the age of 16 but it is illegal to sell cigarettes or tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.

TIER 4 STUDENTS

Students that possess a Tier 4 student visa and wish to come to the UK for 6 months or more are going to have to pay an immigration health surcharge which is part of their visa application fee. This allows the students to gain access to NHS care free of charge, similar to what any permanent UK resident would receive. You may however have to pay for dental and optical treatments as well as for the medicines prescribed by the doctor and collected from a pharmacy, and the standard charge for this is usually £8.60 per item. In case you require continuous medication, it may be wiser and cheaper for you to go for a Prescription Pre-

payment Certificate: www.gov.uk/get-a-ppc.

COURSES LESS THAN SIX MONTHS

If your course happens to last fewer than six months and you belong to a non-EEA country, you are advised to take out medical insurance as you will be liable for NHS charges for the treatments you receive in the UK, with the only exception being a medical emergency. There are countries that maintain a reciprocal agreement with the UK, as a result of which you may be eligible to receive some free healthcare on the NHS despite your course being shorter than six months, but you are still recommended to seek all the advice possible from health authorities in your home countries about what types of treatments are covered under the agreement.

LONG TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS

If you happen to suffer from a long term health condition, you are required to bring documentary evidence from the doctor in your home country-written in English. This is to be provided at the time of registering with a doctor in the UK. You could simply ask for an appointment in order to discuss all your needs. In case you are receiving an on-going medical treatment or using medication, bring a doctor's certificate along with you written in English that confirms the treatment as well as the medication that you are receiving. Before you travel the UK, it may be wise for you to check with your transport provider in order to ensure none of the medicines you are carrying with you are restricted in the UK, and see which ones you are allowed to take through customs.

English language levels

COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE FOR LANGUAGES

There are six levels used by the Council of Europe's CEFR scale that help measure language proficiency, ranging from A1 and going as far as C2. These can further be re-grouped into three sub-divided levels, named Basic User, followed by Independent User and finally Proficient User, which is then also further sub-divided based on the requirements of said context, whatever it may be. These levels are analyzed with the help of descriptors in the form of 'can-do'. These levels have been developing over a long period of time.

The CEFR was released in 2001 and was instantly a turning point, because it was adaptable and usable for various contexts and worked well with all languages. This formal definition of the method of learning a certain language with the help of competence or sub-competence, employing descriptors for each took place not referencing to any language in particular, which proves everything about their applicability and relevance. The descriptors do the job of specifying the continuous mastery of every skill, and a six-level scale is used for grading: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1,

C2.

Your teacher will assess your level upon arrival and you will be placed on a programme to suit your individual study needs.

Pudding Lane street sign



*Get more info at their [website](#).

CEFR: THREE TABLES USED TO INTRODUCE THE COMMON REFERENCE LEVELS

The three tables given below which are known for introducing the Common Reference Levels have been summarized from the original bank of “illustrative descriptors” developed and verified for the CEFR within the Swiss National Research project mentioned in Appendix B of the volume. All of these formulations were scaled mathematically to these levels. To achieve this, the method in which they were interpreted for assessing a large number of learners was analyzed.

Table 1 (CEFR 3.3) — Common Reference Levels: Global Scale

Table 2 (CECR 3.3) — Common Reference Levels: Self-assessment grid

Table 3 (CECR 3.3) — Common Reference Levels: Qualitative aspects of spoken language use

19

English class
backboard
✓



**Table 1 (CEFR 3.3)
Common
Reference
Levels
Global Scale**

The common reference points are to be presented in several ways to serve various purposes. In some cases, it could be important to summarize the set of suggested Common Reference Levels in a holistic summarized table. With a ‘global’ representation that simple, it is going to get much easier to communicate the system to users that are not specialists, and will also serve curriculum planners and teachers as orientation points.

Proficient User

C2

Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

C1

Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

Independent User**B2**

Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

B1

Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

Basic User**A2**

Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

A1

Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

Table 2 (CEFR 3.3) Common Reference Levels Self-assessment grid

To ensure that the teachers, learners and other users understand the educational system better for some practical purpose, it becomes necessary to come up with an

Understanding

Listening

I can recognise familiar words and very basic phrases concerning myself, my family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.

I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. I can understand the main point of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.

I can understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment). I can catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.

Reading

I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues.

I can read very short, simple texts. I can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables and I can understand short simple personal letters.

I can understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language. I can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.

Speaking

Spoken Interaction

I can interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help me formulate what I'm trying to say. I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.

I can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. I can handle very short social exchanges, even though I can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going myself.

I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).

Spoken Production

I can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where I live and people I know.

I can use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my present or most recent job.

I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions. I can briefly give reason and explanations for opinions and plans. I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.

Writing

Writing

I can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. I can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form.

I can write short, simple notes and messages relating to matters in areas of immediate needs. I can write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something.

I can write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

overview that is more detailed. Table 2 serves as a draft for a self-assessment orientation tool that can possibly help learners to work further on their main language skills and choose the level at which they shall go through a checklist of more detailed descriptors to self-assess their own proficiency levels.

I can understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. I can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes. I can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.

I can understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly. I can understand television programmes and films without too much effort.

I have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, even when delivered at fast native speed, provided I have some time to get familiar with the accent.

I can read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints. I can understand contemporary literary prose.

I can understand long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style. I can understand specialised articles and longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to my field.

I can read with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialised articles and literary works.

I can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible. I can take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining my views.

I can express myself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. I can use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes. I can formulate ideas and opinions with precision and relate my contribution skilfully to those of other speakers.

I can take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion and have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms. I can express myself fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely. If I do have a problem I can backtrack and restructure around the difficulty so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it.

I can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to my field of interest. I can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

I can present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion.

I can present a clear, smoothly-flowing description or argument in a style appropriate to the context and with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.

I can write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to my interests. I can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. I can write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.

I can express myself in clear, wellstructured text, expressing points of view at some length. I can write about complex subjects in a letter, an essay or a report, underlining what I consider to be the salient issues. I can select style appropriate to the reader in mind.

I can write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style. I can write complex letters, reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points. I can write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works.

Table 3
(CEFR 3.3)
Common
Reference
Levels
Qualitative
aspects
of spoken
language
use

In this table, the chart was originally created to analyze spoken performances. It takes into consideration various qualitative aspects of using language.

Range	Accuracy
<div>C2</div> <p>Shows great flexibility reformulating ideas in differing linguistic forms to convey finer shades of meaning precisely, to give emphasis, to differentiate and to eliminate ambiguity. Also has a good command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Maintains consistent grammatical control of complex language, even while attention is otherwise engaged (e.g. in forward planning, in monitoring others' reactions).</p>
<div>C1</div> <p>Has a good command of a broad range of language allowing him/her to select a formulation to express him/ herself clearly in an appropriate style on a wide range of general, academic, professional or leisure topics without having to restrict what he/she wants to say.</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Consistently maintains a high degree of grammatical accuracy; errors are rare, difficult to spot and generally corrected when they do occur.</p>
<div>B2</div> <p>Has a sufficient range of language to be able to give clear descriptions, express viewpoints on most general topics, without much conspicuous searching for words, using some complex sentence forms to do so.</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Shows a relatively high degree of grammatical control. Does not make errors which cause misunderstanding, and can correct most of his/her mistakes.</p>
<div>B1</div> <p>Has enough language to get by, with sufficient vocabulary to express him/ herself with some hesitation and circum-locutions on topics such as family, hobbies and interests, work, travel, and current events.</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Uses reasonably accurately a repertoire of frequently used "routines" and patterns associated with more predictable situations.</p>
<div>A2</div> <p>Uses basic sentence patterns with memorised phrases, groups of a few words and formulae in order to communicate limited information in simple everyday situations.</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Uses some simple structures correctly, but still systematically makes basic mistakes.</p>
<div>A1</div> <p>Has a very basic repertoire of words and simple phrases related to personal details and particular concrete situations.</p>	<p>Shows only limited control of a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in a memorised repertoire.</p>

Fluency

Interaction

Coherence

Can express him/herself spontaneously at length with a natural colloquial flow, avoiding or backtracking around any difficulty so smoothly that the interlocutor is hardly aware of it.

Can interact with ease and skill, picking up and using non-verbal and intonational cues apparently effortlessly. Can interweave his/her contribution into the joint discourse with fully natural turntaking, referencing, allusion making etc.

Can create coherent and cohesive discourse making full and appropriate use of a variety of organisational patterns and a wide range of connectors and other cohesive devices.

Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously, almost effortlessly. Only a conceptually difficult subject can hinder a natural, smooth flow of language.

Can select a suitable phrase from a readily available range of discourse functions to preface his remarks in order to get or to keep the floor and to relate his/her own contributions skilfully to those of other speakers.

Can produce clear, smoothly-flowing, well-structured speech, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

Can produce stretches of language with a fairly even tempo; although he/she can be hesitant as he or she searches for patterns and expressions, there are few noticeably long pauses.

Can initiate discourse, take his/her turn when appropriate and end conversation when he / she needs to, though he /she may not always do this elegantly. Can help the discussion along on familiar ground confirming comprehension, inviting others in, etc.

Can use a limited number of cohesive devices to link his/her utterances into clear, coherent discourse, though there may be some "jumpiness" in a long contribution.

Can keep going comprehensibly, even though pausing for grammatical and lexical planning and repair is very evident, especially in longer stretches of free production.

Can initiate, maintain and close simple face-to-face conversation on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. Can repeat back part of what someone has said to confirm mutual understanding.

Can link a series of shorter, discrete simple elements into a connected, linear sequence of points.

Can make him/herself understood in very short utterances, even though pauses, false starts and reformulation are very evident.

Can answer questions and respond to simple statements. Can indicate when he/she is following but is rarely able to understand enough to keep conversation going of his/her own accord.

Can link groups of words with simple connectors like "and", "but" and "because".

Can manage very short, isolated, mainly pre-packaged utterances, with much pausing to search for expressions, to articulate less familiar words, and to repair communication.

Can ask and answer questions about personal details. Can interact in a simple way but communication is totally dependent on repetition, rephrasing and repair.

Can link words or groups of words with very basic linear connectors like "and" or "then".

Money exchange/banks

UK is home to a wide range of banks and most of these banks have their branches set up in London. Many international students often create a basic or student account based on the choice of bank. This allows them to receive a visa debit card, that can then be used to make payments online, in shops or simply retrieve cash through an ATM as long as it stays under a daily limit. These students also become eligible to use online banking services. In most cases, banks impose no charges for offering this account. Extra fees could be applied for one-off services or if a student wishes to opt for more benefits and features. Banks usually suggest students pay a visit to any one of their branches in order to open an account. It might be necessary

to book an appointment in prior for your application based on how busy the bank employees might be as per the timing of your visit. Some of the necessary documents required for your bank account are the UK Visa if applicable, your passport, and a letter from your educational organisation. It may be important for you to make sure that you have access to all the funds you can use for your initial expenses you may come across as you spend your first few weeks in the UK. It may take a little bit of time for you to ensure all arrangements are on track for your new bank account, especially if you start at the beginning of the academic year when banks are busier and the availability of appointments becomes harder to get.



It may also be advisable to ask questions to your home city's bank account before you arrive to the UK. For instance, if your home city's bank account has a branch in the UK, you could simply start the process before you even arrive. You could also let your bank know that you are going to spend time abroad in case you do not wish to lose your current bank account while living in the UK.

^
Birmingham, United Kingdom

Even though almost no student ever undergoes any issues opening a bank account in the UK, every individual bank assess each prospective account holder based on their application and the successful opening of an account is never guaranteed.

£20 banknote



1

BEA'S OF BLOOMSBURY

This café is located right next to the St Paul's Cathedral. You can expect a variety of eateries such as coffee, cupcakes, duffins (doughnut + muffin), and JING tea, along with true comfort as you study in the form of booths with free WiFi.

Book shops and libraries

As the academic year begins, the libraries get busier. Your stress levels start to surge and you may often need something to cool you down, such as a change of scenery, or a really good cup of coffee to keep yourself motivated. You may do this at the local bookshop! Here are some of the best study spaces in London.

2

WELLCOME COLLECTION

This museum serves as an all-in-one point where you not only have a library and reading room with WiFi, but also a nicely equipped café. The library has a wonderful atmosphere inside that is spacious and bright, with the reading room equipped fully with sculptures, paintings, sofas and books.

3

BRITISH LIBRARY

This library goes as tall as four floors of reading rooms that has the capacity to host 1200 readers, you will never struggle to find space for study in here. You will need a membership card in order to gain access to the reading room, which is basically available to all students over the age of 18.



< Wellcome Collection

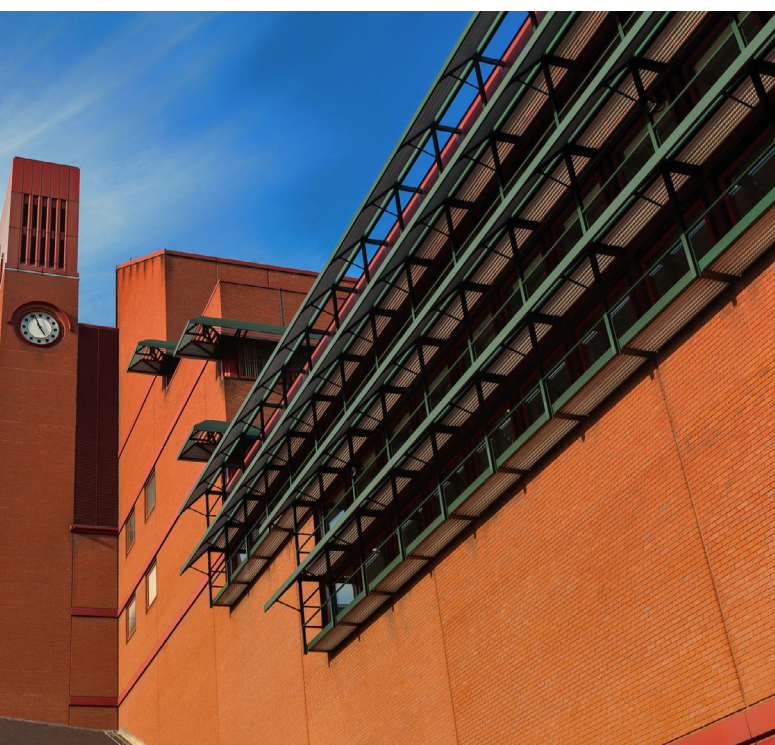


4

FOYLES

Based on the fifth floor of one of the finest looking bookshops in the world, the Café you will see at Foyles is basically a mini-oasis far away from the busy London streets. It serves as the ideal location for hot-desking along with delicious pastries and free WiFi.

The British Library
▼



5

BLOOMSBURY COFFEE HOUSE

UCL students find this particular basement café as their perfect and favorite hotspot. Not only does it have free WiFi, but also a number of plug sockets and coffee that is out of this world. And all of the food you get is homemade.

6

**PAPERCHASE
(TINDERBOX ESPRESSO
BAR)**

On the first floor of this building, you are going to see an espresso bar. This place does not lack when it comes to plug sockets and WiFi, and is home to some of the finest hot coffee and milkshakes served around the city. Their full length windows serve as the final piece in the puzzle to turn the place into the beauty that it is.

Café in
London
▼



7

WATERSTONES (DILLON'S COFFEE)

This coffee house designed in a Scandinavian style is based on Gower Street, which is exactly in front of Malet Place. There is more than enough seating to serve all students, and of course some exceptionally tasting food in the form of cakes, pastries, Paninis and salads, along with free WiFi.

9

TIMBERYARD

This place can truly be called Europe's most ideal independent coffee shop and a mix of meeting rooms, workspace, hot drinks, and food of various varieties. You will find comfortable armchairs as well as tables made out of stacked vintage cases, and free WiFi.



8

YUMCHAA

If coffee is something you are not really into, then this might just be the ideal location for you, serving as a one of a kind loose-leaf tea spot. This shop is extremely bright with its spectacular eye-catching sky-light, and has a really decent and relaxed atmosphere. They offer free WiFi, along with over 40 varieties of teas and locally roasted coffee, and not to mention, a series of snacks and pastries.

Library
▼



Street café
◀

10

VICTORIA & ALBERT (NATIONAL ART LIBRARY)

This museum is home to various exhibitions and also a public reference library which serves as a really peaceful and quiet studying space. With over a million items in the library and free WiFi, there is nothing this library lacks. You may have to register in order to gain access to this library, and this can be done on the Victoria and Albert Museum's website.

National Art Library
▼

How to save big with your flight tickets while travelling

Book at least 30 days prior to the date of flying for domestic flights

According to Skyscanner, the ideal time to book your flight is seven weeks in advance, whereas Expedia states that booking 57 days prior to the day of the flight could get you the cheapest ticket. You should always know that the further you plan to fly, the more you need to plan ahead. If possible, secure the best prices for long haul flights by booking them around five or six months prior.

Search the web

Even though this has not been proven and many airlines have completely denied it, according to many travelers and airlines, browsing on incognito mode to look for flight tickets could get you the cheapest prices because your browser cannot track you and target you with inflated prices based on your location. Hence, clear your cookies and caches and search on incognito as you look for the cheapest flight tickets.

Unlimited free WiFi in airports

Usually at the airports, you are able to use WiFi services for up to an hour free of cost, after which you are forced to pay.

Make the best out of student discounts

If you are a student, you may be eligible for various discounts, especially when it comes to travelling. There are many agents such as STA Travel or StudentUniverse that are experts in offering bookings to students, and may beat the prices of their competitors by offering good discount offers.

Use price comparison tools for the best deals

There are many tools out there on the internet that compare prices from different agents over the internet, for instance Skyscanner, Momondo, Travel Supermarket and more.

Get that rest

There may be cases where your flight may get delayed or you just over-estimate the time and arrive too early. During such times, always get some rest or take a nap. Check out the Guide to Sleeping in Airports in order to find the best sleeping spots available in airports.

The best and budgeted Food Outlets

Loyalty Schemes

Some restaurants offer loyalty points for customers every time you pay them a visit. These points can be redeemed on your future purchases in order to receive great discounts. Get the cards and download the apps in order to get more rewards based on offers.

Discount Websites

Always check websites like Money Saving Expert and Groupon in order to look for discount coupons before you head out for a meal. In many cases, you often find the right code for an excellent discount.

Discount Apps

There are many apps on the internet that offer discounts and offers on the go. In UK, the right app to use would be the VoucherCodes app which allows you to search for nearby restaurant deals on the map with the help of your phone's location tracking feature.

Discount Membership

If you find yourself eating outside on a regular basis in the UK, it may be advisable for you to invest £80 into a Tastecard. As long as you hold one of these cards, you can often get two meals at the price of one and 50% off discounts in thousands of restaurants around the UK. You could even go for a trial period in case you are not sure about committing to the card.

BYO Restaurants

In many restaurants across the UK, there are often BYO (bring your own) features where you are allowed to bring your own drink. You may be asked to pay for a corkage charge but this is nothing compared to the price of the original drink. Such restaurants can be found easily via a simple Google search.

Social media

Social media is home to hundreds if not thousands of offers from all types of restaurants across the city. All you have to do is sit down and patiently look for them and explore, and you should be able to easily come across several offers for restaurants near you in no time. These days almost every organisation has a social media page where they post offers and information on a regular basis. These are the pages you should be following in order to be the first to know of any new deal. You could even give them positive feedback openly on social media and perhaps on a lucky day you might get rewarded for spreading the word!

