



A-Z FOR LONDONERS

HI! We can't wait to welcome you to our city. You will be studying right in the heart of Birmingham, a forward-looking and vibrant city with plenty to see and do just a few minutes' walk from the campus. If you're moving to Birmingham, you'll find out there's so much to explore, just use our handy A-Z to find out what we've got to offer!



ALRIGHT BAB

A warm Brummie greeting. Bab is generally a term of endearment meant for people you know quite well. Kind of like saying 'hun' or 'babe'.



BIRMINGHAM'S LIBRARIES

With four libraries across our campuses and access to more than 65 million full text items, you may wonder why we would mention Birmingham's city centre library. Apart from being one of the city's cutting-edge, architectural gems, it happens to be the largest regional library in Europe and is one of the most visited attractions in the UK. It's a vast place to explore even if you don't need to lend a book, with access to the National Film Archive and home to internationally important collections of archives, photography, rare books, and a state-of-the-art gallery.

Other than that, it's the perfect place to study; grab a coffee from the in-house coffee shop and head up to the secret garden on level 7, where you can get panoramic views of the city.



COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Birmingham is proudly hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2022. This is not only a world-recognised sporting event, but also a chance for the region to grow and succeed. The Commonwealth Games has already provided thousands of work opportunities for locals, and the newly developed Alexander Stadium will see improved pedestrian routes and accessibility throughout the area.

Leading up to the games, the city will transform into a cultural hub by holding the Birmingham 2022 Festival, one of the largest Commonwealth Games cultural programmes. The festival will host over 200 events, from a spectacular open-air show to photography exhibitions and much more.

birmingham2022.com

DIGBETH

Just a stone's throw away from our City Centre Campus, this place is chock-full of Instagrammable street art, with more fun and new things to do opening each year. Want to throw an axe at something? Check. Want to grab some drinks in a bar made out of shipping containers? Check. Want to shop sustainable, one-of-a-kind vintage clothing? There are several shops to choose from. If you're heading to Birmingham, visiting Digbeth is a must!

To have on your list:

- DigBrew
- Ghetto Golf
- The Custard Factory

digbeth.com



EDGBASTON

Edgbaston is a leafy area of Birmingham, with parks and tree-lined streets, some of which lead to the doors of the famous Botanical Gardens. If you're a fan of beautiful landscapes and tropical houses, it's a must-see being one of Birmingham's blooming attractions.

You'll also discover our very own City South Campus in Edgbaston, the student hub for our health, education, and life science courses.

edgbaston.com

What to do?

If you're a sports fan, you may already know that Edgbaston is renowned for world-class sport – both at The Edgbaston Priory for professional tennis tournaments, and at Edgbaston Cricket Club and Stadium, home of the Warwickshire county cricket team, Birmingham Bears and where many international matches take place.

Where to eat?

Edgbaston offers a wide choice of places to eat, drink and socialise including the Michelin star restaurant, Simpsons, or perhaps you'd prefer to create your own five-star masterpiece? There are many independent eateries in the area including La-Pop where you can design an ice-lolly from scratch to suit your taste.



FLOOZIE IN THE JACUZZI

The fountain in Victoria Square is home to 'The River' sculpture, affectionately named the Floozie in the Jacuzzi by pretty much everyone. The Floozie is a key landmark in a beautiful part of Birmingham. The Floozie lost her Jacuzzi when the fountain was turned into a flower bed in 2016, but the good news is the fountain is set to flow again very soon. Make sure to check out this Brummie landmark next time you venture into the city centre.



GETTING AROUND THE CITY

Here in Birmingham, there are plenty of ways to get around, both locally and further afield. With everything being close by, most journeys can be taken by foot, but if you need to quickly get to class or the corner shop, Voi scooters are a cost-efficient, eco-friendly and fast option that can be accessed via an app.

West Midlands Metro is also an option. The trams cover much of the city and stop in convenient places such as the Library of Birmingham and Town Hall, which is perfect for those not familiar with the city just yet. They even go as far as Wolverhampton, and a route down to Digbeth is also to be finished later in 2022.

Not forgetting New Street Station, home to railways connecting Birmingham to the rest of the UK and alongside the intercity line, which is perfect for students living just outside of the city centre. The station is also home to Grand Central, a modern shopping and eating hub, so you don't need to pop in just to catch a train.



HARBORNE

A chic hotspot of the city, Harborne is a 15-minute bus ride from the city centre and a short walk from our City South Campus. The area is home to a range of things to do, including a monthly farmers market which is held on the second Saturday of each month, and Harborne Walkway, a trail that follows an old railway track all the way into town; perfect for a quiet escape on your doorstep.

Other than this, Harborne is the perfect area for student nightlife, with our top pick being The Plough, known for its all-day brunch and seasonal beer garden that hosts frozen margaritas and tacos in the summer, with wings and waffles in the winter. We know you won't want to miss out on this one!

INDEPENDENTS

From quirky bars to quaint cafes, epic street food festivals to unique cinemas, retro game arcades and even barbers, Birmingham is a thriving hub for over 100 unique independent retailers, with more popping up all the time. You will find independents sprawled all over the city, often tucked away down side streets, but be sure to head to independent hotspots such as Great Western Arcade, Piccadilly Arcade, Bennetts Hill and John Bright Street to discover a range of hidden gems. To find out more and support our wonderful independents across the city, visit independent-birmingham.co.uk for the latest openings, events and discounts.

independent-birmingham.co.uk



JEWELLERY QUARTER

Nestled just outside of the city centre, the Jewellery Quarter is a great place to spend the afternoon, dine out, or even an excellent option for somewhere to live during your studies or after graduating. The area has a brilliant balance of everything you need in an ideal city centre location.

Where to visit?

The Jewellery Quarter has many beautiful parts, but by far the most idyllic is St Paul's Square. St Paul's Church is perched in a leafy green park area that is perfect for picnics and lunches whilst watching the many doggos saunter past.

jewelleryquarter.net

You're spoilt for choice for places to eat in the JQ. Hankering for pizza? Try Otto. After a curry? Lasan is just off St Paul's Square, and Indian Brewery is between the JQ and the city for some delectable Indian street food. One of the best things to do in the Jewellery Quarter is simply to take a stroll around the streets and admire the old and new architecture with many old warehouses and factories being turned into flats and offices. There's even a nursery in the old fire station. We couldn't exactly do a list about the Jewellery Quarter without mentioning our fabulous School of Jewellery, could we?! We've now expanded to two sites, with our main school on Vittoria Street and a new postgraduate hub on St Paul's Square. With the JQ producing around 40% of the UK's jewellery, this is the perfect place to study this subject, surrounded by inspirational experts and industry names.



KINGS HEATH

Located between bohemian Moseley and student-y Selly Oak, Kings Heath is a treasure trove of hidden gems with an urban village feel. You can head to a gig at Hare and Hounds, poke around for one-off finds in indie shops or sip your favourite coffee in one of the many heavenly brunch places like Gorilla Cafe or the Early Bird Bakery. Be sure to check out local favourite York Road, home to some of the best pizza the city has to offer at Poli, craft beer and street food at The Juke and a fine and wide selection of cheese and wine at Grace + James. Kings Heath is a neighbourhood hangout you always turn to when you want somewhere welcoming to go to.





LOVE BRUM

Want to discover more of what Birmingham has to offer? LoveBrum is a registered charity that supports hidden gem projects across Birmingham that are often volunteer led and that deliver real change, with outcomes that can be seen, measured, enjoyed, and loved.

They support the 'hard-to-reach' projects; those causes that do not receive the platform or funding that they deserve. They aim to support over 36 projects per year, and to reach out to all corners of our city to remind people how great Birmingham is.



MULTICULTURAL

Birmingham is the most culturally mixed city in the UK, being even more ethnically diverse than London. This is something us Brummies take great pride in, as the fusion of cultures continues to shape our city. Our university alone is home to students from more than 100 different countries. You'll be warmly welcomed here, no matter who you are.

NIGHTLIFE

The heart of Birmingham's nightlife is its unique underground scene. Being a city of arts and music, you can find a spot for anything your heart desires. Like to support independent musicians? Head over to The Sunflower Lounge in the city centre or The Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath. Want to dance your heart away to Northern Soul and decades tunes? Try The Night Owl in Digbeth, which hosts Kaleidoscope Birmingham once a month, a live music and crafts event. If you simply prefer to go to a club or pub, Broad Street boasts dozens of spots for you to choose from.

Prefer to get hands on with an activity instead? Digbeth is home to many including cult favourite Ghetto Golf, and The Floodgate, where you can take your pick between basketball, baseball and more. There are also many escape rooms situated throughout the city, including a Peaky Blinders escape room!

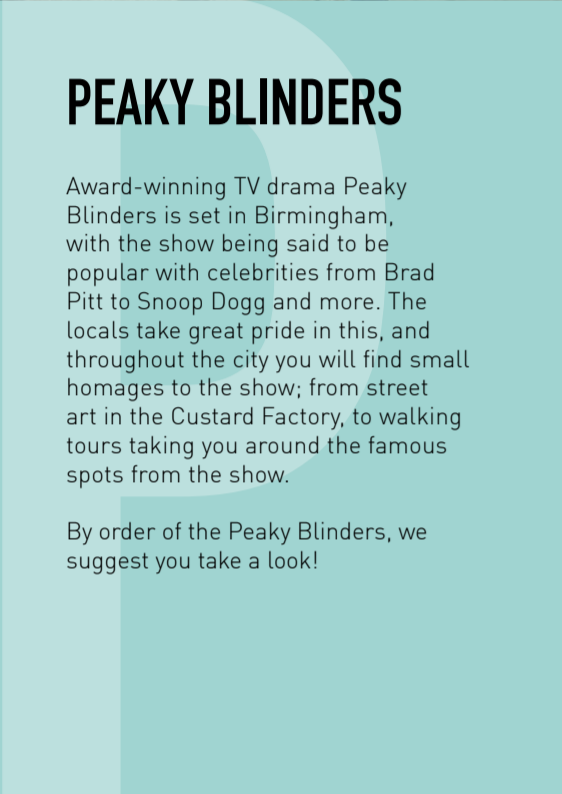
Keep your eyes out for those student deals and venue specific information on safety, times and everything else you need to know for a top Birmingham night out.



OUTDOOR SPACES

Being outdoors is well-known to aid your mental health and physical wellbeing. Birmingham has 8,000 acres of green space and over 500 parks, including Cannon Hill Park and Manor Hill Park, which are both short distances away on public transport.

One of the highest and lengthiest hiking spots in Birmingham is Lickey Hills, which is situated just a few miles outside of the city centre and easily accessible via New Street Station. Take a walk up to see stunning views of Birmingham and surrounding areas, but don't forget to take your water bottle!



PEAKY BLINDERS

Award-winning TV drama Peaky Blinders is set in Birmingham, with the show being said to be popular with celebrities from Brad Pitt to Snoop Dogg and more. The locals take great pride in this, and throughout the city you will find small homages to the show; from street art in the Custard Factory, to walking tours taking you around the famous spots from the show.

By order of the Peaky Blinders, we suggest you take a look!

QUIETER TOURIST SPOTS

If you want to enjoy the history of Birmingham from a more peaceful point of view, there are plenty of spots to explore around the city.

You may not know that Birmingham was the inspiration for many of the settings in Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit, with J.R.R. Tolkien having studied in the city from the age of eight. You can immerse yourself in the world of Middle Earth by taking the Tolkien Trail, an excursion that will take you around the natural sights and buildings that inspired the films.

Birmingham is home to many weird and wonderful museums including The Pen Room, situated in the historical Jewellery Quarter. Learn about how pens from Birmingham were once responsible for most of the written words in the world! Pens not quite your cup of tea? How about the National Museum of British Culture, an exhibition that feels like going into a time machine

If you prefer a stroll around art galleries, IKON is an internationally-acclaimed contemporary art gallery that has free entry (although donations are accepted!). Stop at the in-house coffee shop and take a seat outside, giving you a beautiful view of the building's neo-gothic architecture.

ROCK MUSIC

Birmingham is said to be the home of heavy metal, with the likes of Black Sabbath (fronted by Ozzy Osbourne), Judas Priest, and lead singer of Led Zeppelin originating from the city. You can find many spots around the city that pay homage to our musical roots, including bars that revolve around the rock genre such as Subside and Scruffy Murphy's. Making a trip to Oasis Market, situated in the heart of the city centre, will complete your experience; you can update your vinyl record collection or grab a new band t-shirt. You may also want to take a walk down the Birmingham Walk of Fame, where you can spot musical stars and more.

The city also annually hosts Supersonic Festival, a music event hailed as the UK's best small festival that embraces the heaviness of Birmingham's music heritage. If you're into music, you don't want to miss this one.



SHOPPING

It's fair to say Birmingham's got you covered when it comes to shopping, from high street stores to restored Victorian arcades, markets that pop-up throughout the week to top-notch thrift shops for those second-hand bargains.

Birmingham is a shoppers' paradise. The famous Bullring is packed with modern, glossy, big brand shops. It's always developing, opening new stores and staying on trend. For high-end choices start with the luxurious Harvey Nichols and the iconic Birmingham Selfridges. There's also Grand Central which offers yet more top brands and a wide selection of tasty food, and not to mention it's the gateway to the city.

Venture outside of the city centre and you'll find vintage and second-hand stores a plenty in Digbeth, a huge selection of charity shops in Harborne or all the jewellery you could possibly want in the Jewellery Quarter.

Oh, and we can't reference shopping without dropping in the world's biggest Primark, a whopping five floors to cover, with a Disney themed café and even a beauty studio!



TARRA-A-BIT

Pronunciation:

TA-RAH-A-BIT

Tara-a-bit means goodbye. It can be shortened to just 'ta-rah' and is probably one of the more popularly used Birminghamisms.



US OF COURSE. THE UNIVERSITY FOR OUR CITY - BCU.

We are the university for Birmingham. Our students are the future of our city: its engineers, and its health care professionals; its accountants and lawyers; its teachers and its artists. We are Birmingham to our core.

[birminghamcityuniversity](#)
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[bcu.ac.uk](#)



VEGAN

Brum is quickly becoming a vegan hotbed. Be it the obvious speciality restaurants you want to dip your toe in or have as your new local, to supermarkets or vegan only clothing, Birmingham is in the middle of a vegan boom.

Where to eat?

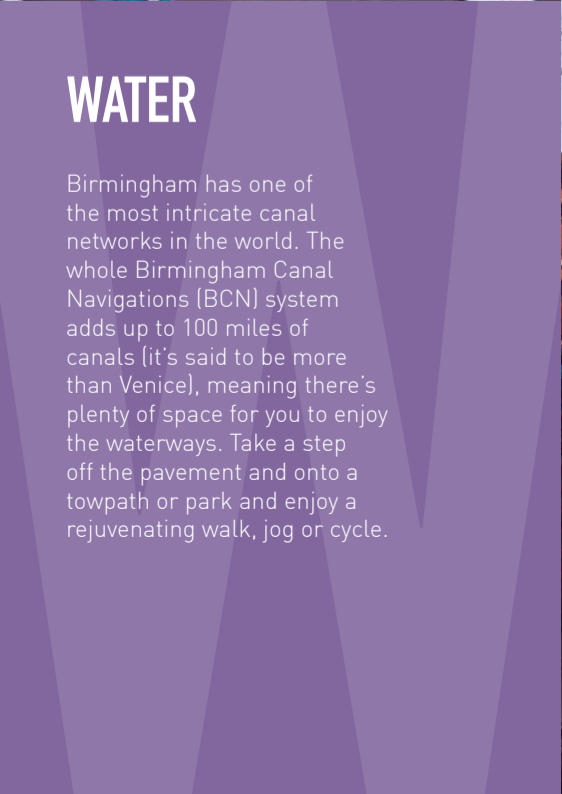
The Warehouse Café - This hip eco-veggie restaurant in Digbeth is a local and co-op led favourite and its fresh seasonal ingredients make it easy to see why it's so popular.

Plant & Pulse - Handily located minutes from our City Centre Campus, they offer a variety of healthy and glutenous vegan options for takeout. Being on all the food delivery apps makes them super convenient for a quick lunch between lectures.

Where to shop?

The Clean Kilo - With two shops in the city, Clean Kilo is the number one for new local, to supermarkets or vegan only clothing. Birmingham is in the middle of a vegan boom. The winner of many a national and local award, Clean Kilo are reinventing shopping.

Xover Nutrition - Based in Kings Heath Xover Nutrition's mission is to supply vegan, natural, ethical and cruelty free products to everyone of all ages. As well as being full of food and drink products look out for their health and beauty section that is well stocked and above all - affordable!



WATER

Birmingham has one of the most intricate canal networks in the world. The whole Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN) system adds up to 100 miles of canals (it's said to be more than Venice), meaning there's plenty of space for you to enjoy the waterways. Take a step off the pavement and onto a towpath or park and enjoy a rejuvenating walk, jog or cycle.



XMAS MARKET

Europe's largest German Christmas Market outside of Germany, consisting of lots of open air stalls selling everything from Bratwursts to locally-made arts and crafts. Grab a Gluhwein and get into the festive spirit!



YAM YAM

The general term for someone who sounds like they're from the Black Country, characterised by a tendency for speakers to replace the word 'are' with 'am' i.e. 'How am ya?'

Don't get confused, though. Yam Yam is much thicker than the Brummie accent, and the rest of the UK often confuse the two!



ZOO AND SAFARI PARK

Birmingham is home to the Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park, which originally began its life as Birmingham Zoo in 1974. It's a much-loved destination for anybody wild about wildlife and is home to lemurs, wallabies and the must-see red pandas. The park is based a short bus ride from BCU in Cannon Hill Park, just south of the city.

If you're willing to travel a little further afield, West Midlands Safari Park is a must-do, unique experience accessible by train or bus. Home to 1,400 animals and spanning over four miles, the self-drive safari also offers minibus tours for those who don't drive. You'll be able to meet the Indian rhinos, cheetahs, lions, tigers, and even baby elephants!