




BIRMINGHAM CITY  
University



PREPARING FOR UNI

# GUIDE

If you're starting uni this year and wondering how to prepare, we've got you covered! Follow our top tips and advice and you'll be ready for student life in no time.



# YOU

## TIPS FOR PREPARING



### 1. Learn to cook

**You don't need to be the next Jamie Oliver, but if fending for yourself is something new to you, you might want to start learning the basics! Plus, cooking up a storm in the kitchen is a great way to impress some new mates.**

#### TOP TIPS

1. Find yourself a good student cook book. They're great for quick, easy and cheap meals.
2. Cook in bulk and freeze future meals. It can work out more expensive and time consuming cooking a meal for one every day.



**Where to start?** YouTube has some great cook-along videos to help get you started. Or, check out some of our [students taking our cooking challenge](#).



## 2. Get reading!

**If you have to do any official preparation for your course you'll receive a reading list before you start.**

### TOP TIPS

1. Don't leave this until the first week of uni. You don't want to have to turn down all those social invites to catch up on your reading instead!
2. No reading list? Why not look up the modules you'll be covering in your first term and research some of the topics?



**Where to start?** Always look online for second hand books before splashing your cash on brand new editions.



### 3. Tackle the laundry

**It may be the chore of all chores but it's something you're going to have to learn to do.**

#### TOP TIPS

1. Separate your whites. Trust us.
2. Laundry detergent and fabric conditioner are not the same thing.
3. Get the lowdown from a family member on what the different settings mean and when to use them.
4. Don't forget your bedding! You do need to wash this more than once a year.



**Where to start?** Try some Colour Catchers to avoid any accidents.



## 4. The official stuff

**You'll probably be asked to bring some official documentation with you like ID and exam certificates. It's a good idea to get all of this organised and in one place before you start.**

### TOP TIPS

1. Get yourself a folder or box to keep all important documents safe and in one place.
2. Take scans or photos of everything so you have a digital backup just in case.
3. Remember where you put them!



**Where to start?** Check what documents you need for enrolment as a start.



## 5. Learn to budget

**It might be tempting to go on a spending spree when your student loan comes in, but you'll soon find out how important it is to budget!**

### TOP TIPS

1. Apply for student finance and figure out how much maintenance loan you'll get.
2. Set up a table/spreadsheet of your outgoings so you can work out what you'll have left over.
3. Apply for a student bank account.
4. Divide any spare cash by the weeks left until your next loan payment, then you know how much extra you have each week.



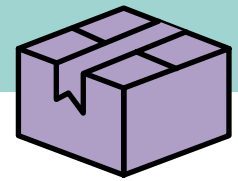
**Where to start?** Apply for a 'TOTUM' NUS student card as soon as you get your student email address. It will give you student discount at most places!

# P A C K

## TIPS ON WHAT TO

If you're moving away for university, it's never too early to start thinking about what you'll need to take with you.

We've put together a list of essentials to help you get started.



### IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

**Remember to scan them so you have a digital backup.**

- ID – a driving license or passport
- University documents
- Student finance documents

### ELECTRICAL

**Take everything you need to work effectively.**

- External hard drive
- Internet connection cables and devices
- An extension lead

### BEDROOM

**Make sure you check the size of your bed before you move in!**

- Pillows
- Bed sheets
- Quilt

### LAUNDRY

**Pack the essentials. The rest can wait.**

- Laundry basket/bag
- Clothes ailer
- Coat hangers

### BATHROOM

**These are three items that always seem to be forgotten!**

- Towels
- Toilet roll
- First aid supplies

### KITCHEN

**Bring the must-haves and look to top up once you've moved in.**

- Bowls, plates and cutlery
- Mugs and glasses
- Saucepan and frying pan

# NEED MORE TIPS?

CHECK OUT OUR VLOGS



Some of our students have shared their top tips and advice on preparing for university. Check out their vlogs to find out what they wish they'd known beforehand, and what they've learned since being a student.

[bcu.ac.uk/preparing-vlogs](https://bcu.ac.uk/preparing-vlogs)

