INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARRIVAL GUIDE



2026

LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

Your Arrival Guide 2026

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TAP THE BLUE BUTTONS TO GO TO EACH PAGE, AND WE'VE INCLUDED CLICKABLE LINKS TO ALL THE RESOURCES IN THIS GUIDE.

WELCOME TO LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE

“As Principal of Leeds Conservatoire, it is my pleasure to welcome you as new students to our community. You have taken an exciting step by choosing to study in the UK, and I hope you make the very most of your time here. Leeds is a fantastic city, with incredible music venues, theatres, restaurants, clubs and concert halls. I encourage you to explore everything it has to offer and immerse yourselves in the city's rich cultural life.



Leeds Conservatoire is a place to be ambitious, to take creative risks, and to discover your own artistic identity as musicians, performers and composers. You will learn from exceptional staff and alongside talented fellow students from around the world, and I hope your time here challenges, inspires and transforms you. If you see me around the Conservatoire, please don't hesitate to come and say hello.

I look forward to meeting you, and I wish you every success as you begin this exciting new chapter.”

-JOE WILSON

PRINCIPAL OF LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE



YOUR ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

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.
- 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. Make sure you:

- Register at Leeds Student Medical Practice.
- Or find a GP (General Practitioner, also called Doctor) using the NHS website.
- Email healthandWellbeing@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk if you need help.

YOUR ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

Once you have selected a specific bank, you will need a letter from Leeds Conservatoire confirming your enrolment, which you can find on your student portal. Online banking can be accessed before you arrive, with further information about opening a bank account as an international student on the UKCISA website.

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.

SIGN UP FOR INDUCTION ACTIVITIES

You will receive information about your course registration and induction activities. Please contact enrolment@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk with any questions.

The Students' Union will organise a 2-week Freshers' Programme for you, so please follow LCSU on Facebook/Instagram to keep up-to-date with your Freshers' Schedule, or email Studentunion@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.

EAT, EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

Restaurants & Dining

From independent eateries to award-winning restaurants, Leeds offers cuisines from around the world to suit every taste and budget.





Cafés & Coffee

Discover cosy cafés, artisan bakeries and speciality coffee shops, perfect for studying, meeting friends or enjoying a relaxing afternoon.

Street Food & Markets

Discover Trinity Kitchen, Belgrave Street Feast and local markets, plus many more street food spots serving global flavours across Leeds.





Taste from Home

Missing familiar flavours? Leeds is home to international supermarkets and authentic restaurants serving cuisines from across Europe, Asia, Africa and beyond.

REMEMBER THAT SHOP OPENING TIMES MAY DIFFER FROM THOSE YOU ARE USED TO, SO CHECK OPENING HOURS IN ADVANCE.

EAT, EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

Culture & Heritage

Explore world class galleries, museums, independent cinemas and iconic cultural venues, showcasing everything from contemporary art to local history.





Outdoors & Nature

Escape the city and explore the outdoors with scenic parks, walking trails, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the stunning Yorkshire Dales, all within easy reach.

Sports

Cheer on Leeds United, Leeds Rhinos and many more Leeds based teams, then enjoy cycling, running and green spaces across Leeds.





Faith & Community

Connect with welcoming faith communities, places of worship and student societies, offering support, friendship and opportunities to celebrate together.

EAT, EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

Live Music & Venues

Experience Leeds' thriving music scene with intimate gigs and major concerts at iconic venues including Brudenell Social Club, First Direct Bank Arena, The Wardrobe and Oporto, showcasing local talent and international artists year round.





Theatre & Performance

Enjoy outstanding performances from Opera North, Northern Ballet, Leeds Playhouse and independent theatres, offering drama, dance, comedy and musicals.

Festivals & Events

Celebrate throughout the year with music, film, food, cultural and community festivals, including Leeds Festival, Pride and Light Night.





City Highlights

Discover unique city experiences, seasonal attractions, pop up events and hidden gems that make Leeds an exciting place to live and explore.

LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE STUDENTS' UNION

Hello and welcome to Leeds Conservatoire!

My name is Grace Price, I am the Students' Union President here at Leeds Conservatoire. Congratulations on your place, we hope you are looking forward to your time here! We are certainly looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the Conservatoire.



GRACE PRICE
STUDENTS' UNION
PRESIDENT

You have come a long way to be with us and I hope you are excited for your new adventure. We understand that moving to a new country can be an overwhelming experience, the Students' Union are here to help you settle in and make this experience as easy as possible.



LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE STUDENTS' UNION

Our Students' Union is built up of a small team alongside the President; this includes our Students' Union Coordinator Izzy Hobbs, as well as a team of student representatives who form our Student Council, this includes our International Student Representative.

Your Students' Union wants to ensure that your experience studying and living in Leeds is the best it possibly can be, we are here to help you feel at home. If you ever need to talk, feel free to come by the SU office or drop us a message, we are always happy to help! Students' Union Office: Room 437, Fourth floor at Leeds Conservatoire.



IZZY HOBBS
STUDENTS' UNION &
STUDENT VOICE
COORDINATOR

LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE STUDENTS' UNION

Email us: studentunion@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.

There's loads of opportunities to get involved with at your Students' Union - You can join clubs and societies, purchase exclusive Leeds Conservatoire merchandise, perform at our gigs, attend our career fairs, and come along to our events, including our Freshers Weeks events! We post regular updates on our plans and what we're up to via social media.

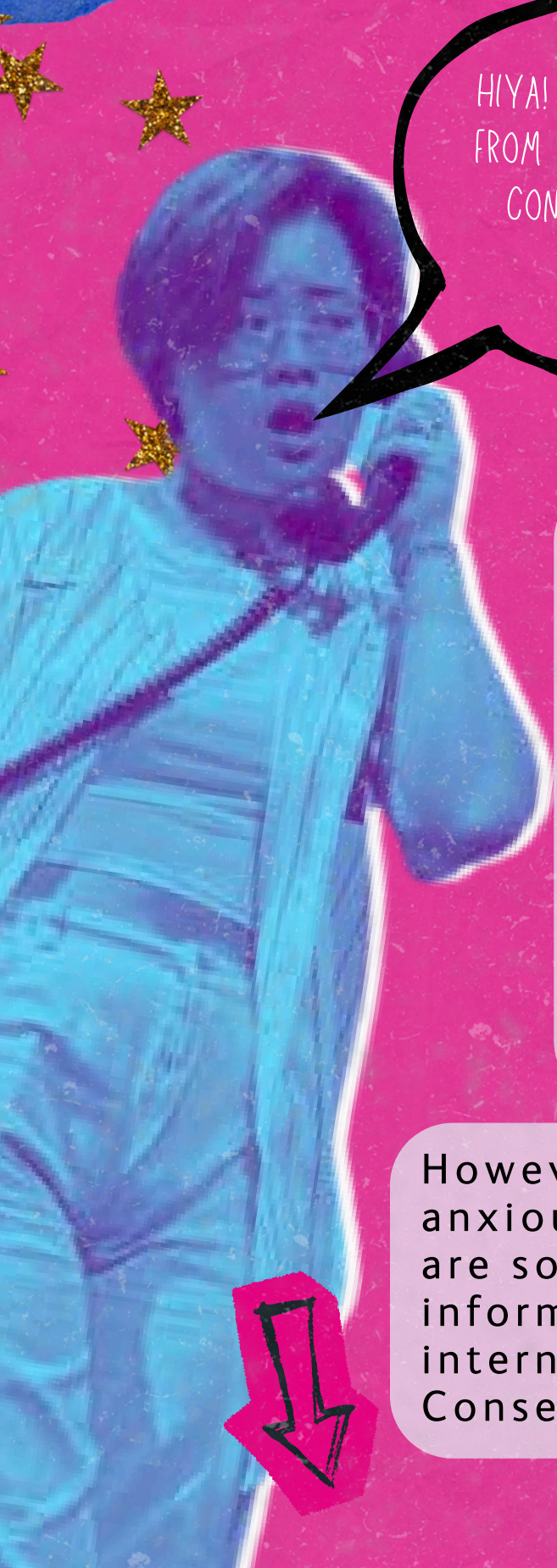
Instagram: lcsu

Facebook: Leeds Conservatoire Students' Union

We wish you all the best and are looking forward to meeting you!
Best wishes,
Grace and the SU Team



USEFUL TIPS & IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW



HIYA! I'M BERN, AN ASPIRING THEATRE-MAKER FROM SINGAPORE STUDYING ACTING AT LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE, AND I WAS LAST YEAR'S STUDENT UNION'S INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

I understand that for many of you, this will be the first time you are moving away from home in order to embrace your passions.

Although that may sound a little scary, we hope to create an inviting environment that will enrich your journey and support you every step of the way!

However, if you're still feeling anxious about such a big move, here are some useful tips and important information from me and international students at Leeds Conservatoire.

USEFUL TIPS & IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

"Start packing early, making a list of things you want to prepare or pack. That way you won't feel too frazzled or stressed out as the day of travel approaches. You'll want to make sure that's a happy occasion, where you're calm, in control and looking forward to your next big adventure."

"BE open to new experiences. There's a world to explore here and the Student Union is here to help support and host activities that are guaranteed to add fun and enrich your student experience. If you take the plunge, I'm sure you'll come away having a great time and making great friends. In all that, though, do keep in touch with family back home. They will remain your steadfast support and a great touchstone to keep your student journey grounded."

USEFUL TIPS & IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

"Arriving in a new country not knowing anyone can be daunting, but Leeds Conservatoire is a very welcoming community, and it will soon become your second home."

"My advice is to be open and get to know the people around you. The fresher's week is full of events at the Conservatoire and a great opportunity to chat to students.

You will find that everyone is facing the challenge of moving to university and adapting to a new environment, no matter how similar or different it is from home."

USEFUL TIPS & IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

"I definitely recommend exploring Leeds as much as you can. It's a vibrant student city, full of history, music, and art!"

"Enjoy every single moment of this experience, since you have the privilege to study abroad.

Have fun, get involved in societies, learn as much as you can because you, I know it's cliché, but the time is going to go by so fast so you might as well make the most of it."

USEFUL TIPS & IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Working during your studies

You must not work if you are not permitted 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; for example, you can't teach someone how to play the guitar.

Leeds Conservatoire also offers a Student Ambassador Scheme, which provides paid opportunities to represent the Conservatoire. You can find out more here.

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 registering any electrical goods such as smartphones, laptops, and any other devices you own (in fact, any item with a serial number) on the national property database for free. Visit www.immobilise.com. The police check this database in the event stolen goods are recovered and can return them to their rightful owner.

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 a TV licence if you watch or record live TV on any channel, on any device. You also need a TV licence to watch or download BBC programmes on BBC iPlayer, including live and catch-up content.

You do not need a TV licence to watch on-demand content on streaming services such as Netflix, Disney+, Amazon Prime Video or Apple TV+, provided you are not watching live TV through those services.
This applies across all devices, including smart TVs, desktop computers, laptops, mobile phones, tablets, digital boxes and games consoles. For more information, visit this website.

USEFUL TIPS & IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Getting Settled: Accommodation, Shopping and Essentials

Getting settled into accommodation and life in Leeds can be an exciting experience. There are plenty of supermarkets, food shops and shopping areas nearby, offering affordable options for everyday essentials and accommodation needs.

Crown Point Shopping Park is one convenient place to explore, alongside other local shopping areas. Look out for student discounts and cost effective options to help manage your budget. Remember that shop opening times may differ from those you are used to, so check opening hours in advance.

Getting Settled: 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) has 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 addresses.

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 available on their website.

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 stay 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 display 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.

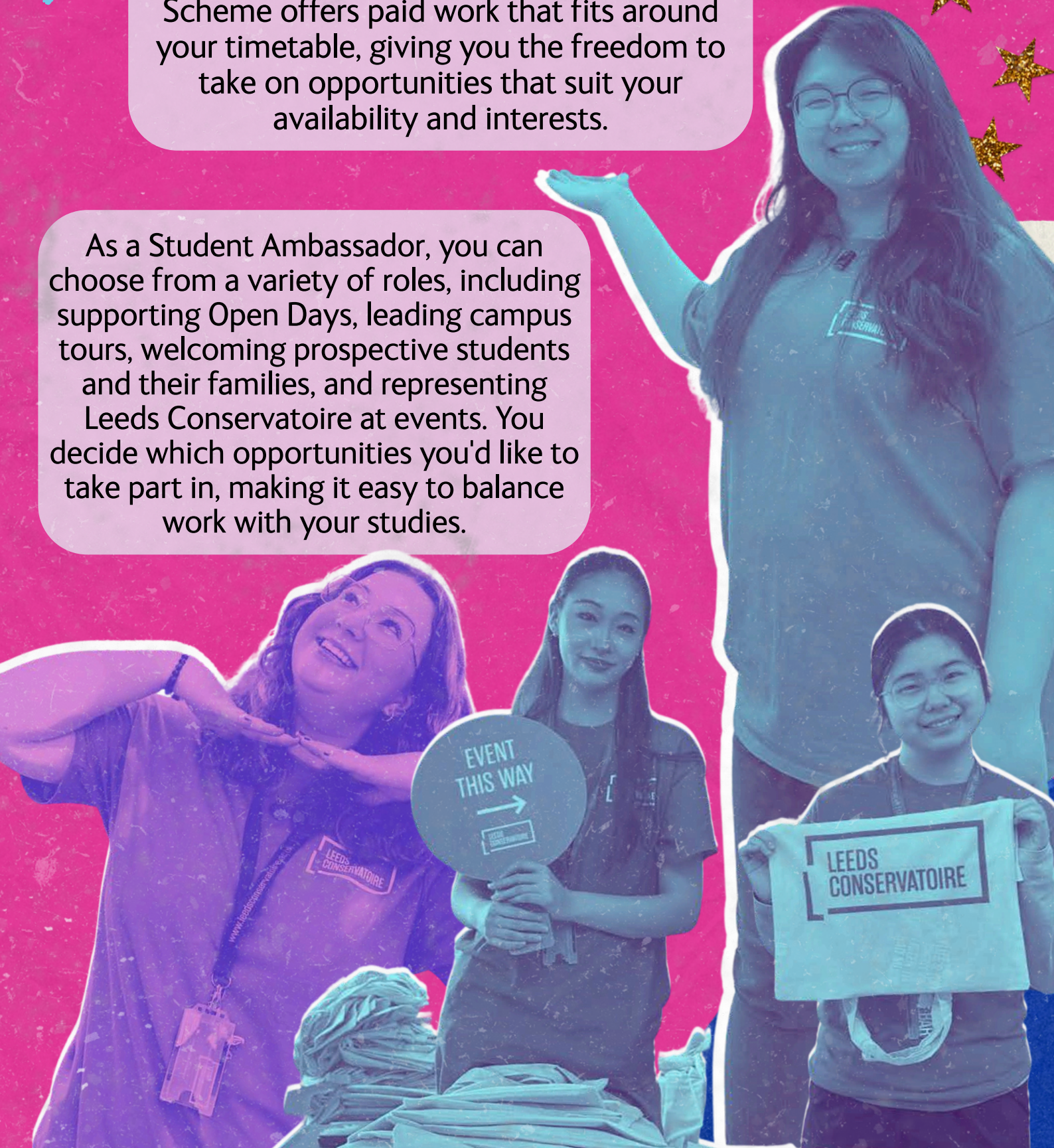
Close and lock windows and doors in your accommodation, even if you're only going out for a short time. Most thefts in halls of residence occur when students leave their rooms for short periods (e.g., to the common room or to a friend's room).

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.

BECOME A STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Looking for a flexible way to earn alongside your studies? Our Student Ambassador Scheme offers paid work that fits around your timetable, giving you the freedom to take on opportunities that suit your availability and interests.

As a Student Ambassador, you can choose from a variety of roles, including supporting Open Days, leading campus tours, welcoming prospective students and their families, and representing Leeds Conservatoire at events. You decide which opportunities you'd like to take part in, making it easy to balance work with your studies.



BECOME A STUDENT AMBASSADOR

It's also a fantastic way to meet both prospective and current Leeds Conservatoire students, build new friendships, develop valuable skills, and gain experiences that will enhance your CV while becoming more involved in the Conservatoire community.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a Student Ambassador or register your interest, email schools@lcm.ac.uk. We'd love to hear from you!



STUDENT SUPPORT & WELLBEING

SUPPORTING YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

You can find information on how to access Student Support and Wellbeing on our student information site (Student Support & Wellbeing – Students).

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.

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.



STUDENT SUPPORT & WELLBEING

Disability Support

Our Disability Support Team are available to discuss any support requirements you have, to make sure that you receive the advice and adjustments you need to fully engage with your studies. If you decide to study at Leeds Conservatoire, you will be given the opportunity to disclose any disability, neurodiversity, mental-health condition or long-term health condition (lasting, or likely to last 12 months+), with further information about this available on the Leeds Conservatoire Disability Support web page. If you have any specific queries, please contact disability@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.



DONNA ROYAL
DISABILITY ADVISOR

Student Funding

Moving to a new country can bring lots of questions about managing your finances. Whether you need help understanding the cost of living in the UK, creating a budget, opening a bank account, managing currency exchange, finding affordable places to shop, or making your money go further as a student, our Student Funding Team can provide guidance and signpost you to useful resources. Please email studentfunding@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk or call 0113 222 3508 / 0113 222 3419.



NICHOLAS WHITE
DISABILITY SUPPORT
MANAGER



MANJIT SANGHA
FUNDING & ACCOMMODATION
MANAGER



CARMEN MCLEAN
STUDENT FUNDING ADVISOR

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.



KIRSTIN THOMPSON
HEAD OF STUDENT SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

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 or call 0113 222 3411.



DANIELA BONITZ
HEALTH & WELLBEING MANAGER - INTERNATIONAL LEAD

Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy helps students overcome physical, mental, cognitive, or sensory challenges. It provides practical strategies, routines, and adaptations to support academic success, independence, and overall wellbeing. Please contact us via email occupationaltherapy@leedsconservatoire.ac.uk.



DAWN MOORE
STUDENT ACCOMMODATION ADVISOR



STEPHANIE BRADBURY
STUDENT ACCOMMODATION ADVISOR - INTERNATIONAL LEAD

USEFUL WEBSITES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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:
Explore the range of student insurance policies available, with Save the Student's helpful article covering everything you need to know.

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/

16- 25 Railcard:
16-25 Railcard | Only £35 | Railcards

NEED HELP? GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to email us at international@lcm.ac.uk.

We'll either help you directly or connect you with the right department.

LEEDS CONSERVATOIRE