



Starting university can be daunting and is very different to anything you have done before. This information sheet will provide you with some guidance on what to expect as a university student, what you can get involved in and things to think about before you arrive.

### Before going to university:

- Apply for Student Finance
- Research student bank accounts
- Make a budget planner
- Start saving money
- Learn to food shop and cook some basic meals
- Look into accommodation options

### What do students do?

- Independent study
- Clubs and societies
- Part-time jobs
- Volunteering/work experience
- Food shopping
- Cooking
- Social activities

### Moving away from home:

- Making new friends and housemates
- Cooking for yourself
- Food shopping
- Washing your own clothes
- Paying your own bills
- Feeling homesick – this is normal and will pass!

### Fresher's Week:

This is your opportunity to meet other students and enjoy what your university has to offer. Various social events will take place throughout the week organised by the UPSU, introductory lectures will take place for your courses and you will have the chance to explore the city/campus.

### University of Plymouth

#### events include:

- Fresher's Fair
- Sports and Societies Fair
- Volunteering Fair
- Inductions
- Lots of freebies!
- Campus markets
- Welcome parties

### University of Plymouth Student Union:

Visit our website for information on events, clubs/societies and volunteering:  
<https://www.upsu.com/>

### Sports and fitness:

- On campus sports centre – gym, classes, sports hall
- Plymouth Life Centre – free swimming for students
- Clubs/societies -  
<https://www.upsu.com/societies/>

### Budgeting:

You will need to learn how to budget your money correct. These are the main things you will likely spend on:

- Accommodation
- Bills
- Travel
- Shopping
- TV and mobile necessities
- Course necessities
- Clubs/societies
- Social life

### Keep track of your money by:

- Work out how much money you will receive
- Use online banking
- Pay for essentials first
- Buy in bulk – normally cheaper!
- Budget apps or make a spreadsheet
- Make use of student discounts
- Get a part-time job

### Employability:

Student jobs – ambassador, catering, Student Union, retail etc. Should you require help with applications or CVs, speak to the Careers Team at [careers@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:careers@plymouth.ac.uk)

### Accommodation:

There are three main types of university accommodation –

- Live at home
- Live in halls
- Privately rent in shared student house

Ensure you research and think about all options so you pick the correct one for you.

For more information on University of Plymouth Accommodation, please visit

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/services/accommodation>

