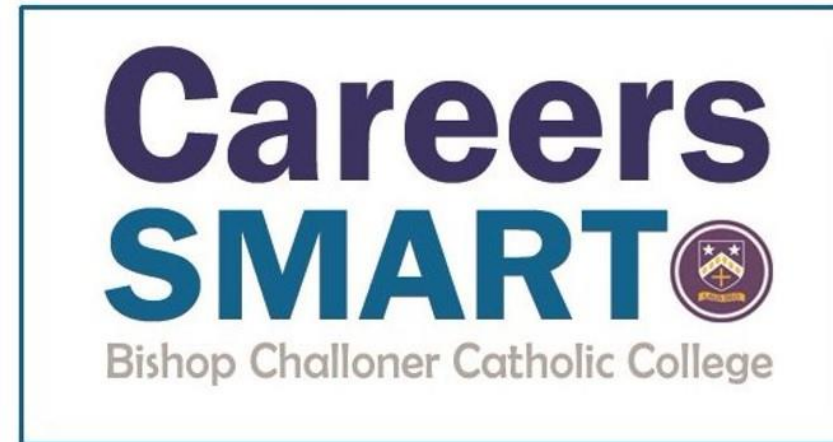


Living Away At University





WHAT WE WILL COVER

1. What does life look like as a student?
2. Some things to consider about moving away
3. Some common concerns and worries

Home or Away?

Although we are lucky in Birmingham that we have good choice of universities, there are over 150 institutions in the UK that you can study at.

Before you decide that you definitely want to stay living at home, it is worth considering all of the options and finding out more about what is out there!

University could be the perfect opportunity to step outside your comfort zone!



What does 'student life' look like?

What does being a student involve?



What university students said:

“Being a student means...”

1. Lectures, seminars and tutorials
2. Late nights at the library
3. Clubs and societies
4. Part-time job
5. Work experience
6. Living in halls
7. Meeting new people
8. Learning to cook
9. Doing your own washing



Moving away from home

The independence

For the majority of students this will be the first time you've tasted independence. You'll have freedom like never before and be able to do things your own way. It's up to you when you eat, sleep, study and party!

Being responsible

With great power comes great responsibility! Living away from home will force you to be more responsible – a double-edged sword if there ever was one. No-one else is going to feed you, clean up after you or make you study; only *you* can.

The life experience

Moving away for uni is without a doubt a life experience you will carry with you forever. You'll grow as a person, learn things you never thought you could and do things you never knew you would – good and bad!

New support system

Although you won't have your family around, you will have a whole host of new friends to help you figure things out when you are stuck. You'll also have support from the university and your tutors if you need help with your studies.

Common Concerns

- “I’ll miss my friends and family”
- “Some of my friends aren’t going to uni”
- “I’d be leaving my boyfriend/girlfriend behind”
- “I can’t cook”
- "I won't know anyone – how will I make new friends?"
- "What if I run out of money?"



“I’ll miss my friends and family”

"I won't know anyone – how will I make new friends?"

- It's usually the opposite! Students are expecting to feel homesick, but in reality, are so busy with their new lives, that they have to remember to call home!
- There are lots of opportunities to meet new people:
 - Fresher's week
 - Clubs and societies
 - New flatmates/people that you've moved in with
 - Course friends

“My friends are doing other things”

“I’d be leaving my boyfriend/girlfriend behind”

- There is a lot of change for everyone at the end of Year 13.
- Some of your friends will stay in Birmingham, some will move away. You will all have exciting experiences to share with each other!
- You’re not leaving them ‘behind’. Your WhatsApp will still be busy with your usual chats.
- They might be looking at different universities/moving away from home themselves. So long as you don’t mind sleeping on their floor, it might be a great opportunity to go and see places around the country that you haven’t visited before.
- Take your boyfriend/girlfriend with you to look around universities so they are involved with your decision. If it’s meant to be it will last.

“I can’t cook”

"What if I run out of money?"

- University is a great chance to learn important life skills like cooking, cleaning, laundry and budgeting! Everyone needs to learn some day!
- There are different options when it comes to accommodation. Catered halls offer the opportunity to have some or all of your meals provided for you. You’ll still have access to a shared kitchen so you can cook snacks if you want to.
- Ask parents and relatives to teach you how to make some of your favourite meals before you go.
- Budgeting is very important – talk to your parents about money before you go. They can help you budget and plan for unforeseen circumstances.
- Universities will have hardship funds if you really run in to trouble, but they won't just bail you out if you've spent too much money partying!

Open Days

- If you are planning on living somewhere for at least 3 years it is a good idea to try and visit it before commit to it!
- Open Days run at various points throughout the year and are a great opportunity to get a feel for a university, as well as a town or city.
- At an Open Day you can hear talks from lecturers, get a tour round facilities and get to see what student accommodation is like. There are usually current students there who can give you honest opinions about the university!
- Remember, you will be applying for university before January (or October if you are an early applicant) so you will want to visit places sooner, rather than later!
- The best place to search for open days is on individual university websites. You can also check **opendays.com**

TheUniGuide

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What to study, where to go and how to get there

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UCAS

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- Prospectuses
- Open Days
- University websites
- League tables