

Everyday life in Brighton and Eastbourne

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University of Brighton

What we will be talking about...

- Travel
- Shopping: major supermarkets, main shopping areas, specialist shops
- Student discounts
- Opening a UK bank account
- UK mobile phones: pay as you go, SIM only plans, handset contracts.
- Working in the UK



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Enrolling on your course

Two stages to enrolling on your course:

1. Online from 21st August: confirm your details, agree to the university's terms and conditions, and upload a photo for your Uni Card.
2. In-person once you arrive at the university: bring proof of your right to study to be checked by the Student Visa Compliance Team (your passport and visa/ entry permit/ BRP/ share code for digital status).

Once you have completed both stages you are enrolled and can request a Student Status letter via the My Brighton app.



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Travel



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Walking and Cycling

Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to and from campus where possible:

- Low cost
- Healthy
- Reduces your carbon footprint.

Details of walking times between campuses, halls of residence and town centres [here](#).

There is information on cycling [here](#), including details of cycle routes, and share bike hubs.



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Bus travel in Brighton

Brighton and Hove Buses offer a student discount on tickets purchase via their app. You will need to [verify your student status](#) on the app by uploading your unicond and a 'confirmation of studies letter' to do this.

This means you will need to have enrolled on your course to access the student discount. Until then you can either 'tap on tap off' using a contactless credit or debit card, purchase a the appropriate ticket on the mobile app, or on the bus. Please note – Brighton buses accept cash, but only give a voucher as change (to be used on future bus journeys).

Once your student status has been verified, you can purchase a [24 hour Student citySAVER](#) or [24 hour Student networkSAVER](#) via the app. You can also purchase tickets using the key. This is a contactless card which can be preloaded with a bus pass for 7 days, 90 days or 12 months.

More information on fares and routes online [here](#).

The app also has [journey planner](#) and [live bus times](#).



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Bus travel in Brighton

What's the difference between a Student citySAVER and a Student networkSAVER?

In both cases you purchase the ticket in the app, and then activate it when you are ready to travel. This produces a code that you scan on the device next to the driver when you board the bus.

Student citySAVER: valid for 24 hours from activation in the app. Not valid on night buses (buses with N in front of the number like N25). Covers most areas in Brighton but [check the map](#) if you are travelling outside the city.

Student networkSAVER: valid for 24 hours from activation in the app, also valid on night buses (buses with N in front of the number like N25). Valid on all Brighton and Hove buses (except City Sightseeing).



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Bus travel in Brighton

A number of routes across the city. The main ones that service the university are:

23 - travels from Brighton Marina in the east, along the Lewes Road to our Moulsecoomb campus, then on to our Falmer campus (it goes through the University of Sussex campus first).

25, 25x - travel from city centre, along the Lewes Road to our Moulsecoomb campus to our Falmer campus (they go through the University of Sussex campus first). 25x is an express service so does not stop at all bus stops along the route.

24 - travels from the city centre to Varley Halls. It also goes to a large supermarket called Asda in Hollingbury, which is around 10-15 minutes from Varley Halls.

48, 49, 28, 29 - travel from the city centre along Lewes Road to our Moulsecoomb campus. 28 and 29 are express routes so do not stop at all bus stops along the route.

You can plan your route using the Brighton bus app or [online](#).



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Bus travel in Eastbourne

Stagecoach buses run regular bus services in Eastbourne: 3, 3a and 4 service Eastbourne campuses. Student discount on tickets/ passes for longer periods:

Eastbourne StudentRider 2023-2024 - £518.00. Valid from 01/09/2023 to 31/07/2024. So aimed at students starting in September who are here only in the main term time.

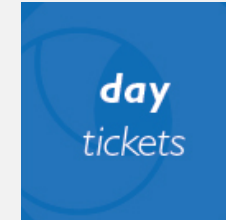
Dayrider – one day's travel within Eastbourne - £5.00 to buy on the bus or on Stagecoach Bus app

Eastbourne 7 day megarider – 7 day's travel - £18.50 on the Stagecoach bus app or issued as credit on smart card online.

Eastbourne megarider Xtra – 28 day's travel within Eastbourne - £63.20 – issued as credit on a smart card online.

Stagecoach buses website [here](#).

You will need to wait until you have your unicond to purchase tickets with a student discount.



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Bus etiquette

You will need to **hail the bus** before it gets to the bus stop or it may carry on driving!

You will need to **ring the bell** so the driver knows to stop and let you off.

Most buses are scheduled to stop on request at every bus stop in their route, but some express services do not – in Brighton this is mainly 25x and 28/29.

Certain seats labelled as **priority seats** for people less able to stand. Fold up seats for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs. You can sit there if no-one needs them, but will need to move if needed (unless you are in the priority group yourself).

It is considered polite to say '**hello**' to the driver as you get on, and '**thank you**' as you get off the bus.



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Trains

There are good train links between University of Brighton campuses.

Details of walking times between stations and campuses and university [accommodation online here](#).

[Southern Railway](#) has a range of tickets. Also check website for details of industrial action and disruption to services.

Student discounts:

- 16-25 railcard (33% off train travel after 10am)
- Uni Zone ticket (discounted train pass between Worthing, Brighton and Eastbourne)
- Student Oyster (for students living in London).

See [here](#) for more details.



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16 - 25 Railcard

Available for all full-time students.

1/3 off train travel across the UK (33%).

Between 04.30 and 10.00 Monday to Friday the discount is only applied to ticket purchases above the minimum fare of £12.

Not useful for attending lectures and seminars in the morning, but great for trips to other places in the UK.

You can buy the card online through the [main website](#) for £30 for 1 year or 3 years for £70 (you can only buy the 3 year card if you are under 23 years old). You can buy the card via the [Trainline website](#) for £24 for 1 year or 3 years for £56.

If you are over 26 years old you need to download a paper form to be stamped by the university and scanned/ uploaded to add to the application.

You need to have a 16-25 railcard to purchase a Unizone ticket.



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Brighton Unizone tickets

Gives you unlimited travel between Brighton and Eastbourne (to the east) and Brighton and Worthing (to the west). Map and more information [here](#).

Can only be bought through the ticket office at a station on the Unizone route.

+ Weekly: £20.80

+ Monthly: £79.90

+ Quarterly (3 months): £239.60

You need to have (and show the station staff) a valid 16-25 railcard, and a valid TOTEM card. This is a student discount card provided by the National Union of Students. You can apply for a free one year Student TOTEM card [here](#).



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Shopping



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Supermarkets

Price Guide

	£
	£
The co-operative food	£ £
	£
 MORRISONS	£ £
	£ £ £
Sainsbury's	£ £
	£ £
Waitrose	£ £ £

Grocery Shopping

A number of large supermarkets in Brighton and Eastbourne. Vary in price from cheaper to very expensive!

There is often a 'world food' aisle in most supermarkets, as well as a section for gluten free and dairy free food.

Various offers like 3 for 2 or buy one get one free. These are only a bargain if you need these items. Many offer a loyalty card, collect points with each purchase, which can be redeemed against shopping at a later date, and offer a discounted price for selected goods.

There are maps and details of the nearest supermarkets to University of Brighton managed halls of residence [here](#).

We have **a map** of smaller/ independent food shops including international and specialist groceries.



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Shopping for Household Items

You can buy a range of cheap household items (duvets, pillows, saucepans, plates, knives and forks, towels) at the supermarket [ASDA](#).

Argos has a website where you can order items online to collect in person from [their stores](#), or have delivered to you.

Marks and Spencer is a very famous British shop – items are more expensive but very good quality. There is one on Western Road in Brighton, and in the Beacon centre in Eastbourne.

It is worth waiting until you have seen what other items your flatmates have brought to university before buying loads of cooking items as there will be things you can all share.



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Main shopping areas in Brighton

Churchill Square is the main shopping centre/mall in Brighton. Western Road next Churchill Square is one of the main shopping streets with large 'chain' stores and small shops selling clothes, electrical items, homeware and books.

The Lanes and North Laine are also filled with shops, many of which are independent and more unique.

In Hove George Street has a number of chain stores as well as smaller independent shops.



Main shopping areas in Eastbourne

The Beacon is the main shopping centre/mall in Eastbourne.

The town centre, from the station to the pier, also has a lot of shops.

There is an area, south west of the station, known as 'Little Chelsea' which has independent and exclusive shops and galleries.



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Other shops in the UK

Corner shops'

Sometimes referred to as 'newsagents' these small local shops which sell a small range of food and drink, confectionary, news papers (usually) and cigarettes. Some also have an 'off-licence' to sell alcohol. They are likely to be much more expensive than a larger shop so it is best to save them for small purchases!



For more detailed information on shopping in Brighton and Eastbourne see our [guide here](#).

Charity shops

Very popular in the UK. People donate items they no longer want or need and the store sells them on, giving the proceeds to charity. You can buy clothes, books and more, often at a **cheap price** as they are **second-hand**.

Poundland

You will see these on UK main shopping areas. Sell a range of household items, some food, toiletries, and over the counter medicines. Some things are much cheaper, but some are not!



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TOTUM cards and student discounts

- + Discount card from National Union of Students (NUS)
- + Free card, or £14.99 per year depending on the level of benefits you want to access.
- + Discounts across range of shops, restaurants, cafes, take aways, cinemas, etc.
- + Before you buy anything check if they offer a student discount!
- + More information [here](#).



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Banking



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Opening a UK Bank Account

We recommend opening a UK bank account if you will be studying in the UK for more than 6 months.

To open an account you need to:

- Decide which bank you wish to open an account with, and check their requirements for identity documents.
- In most cases will need a letter from the University of Brighton address to the bank, confirming your address and enrolment. You can either download the letter via My Brighton, or request it by emailing studentservices@brighton.ac.uk



Our bank guide

There is information on [university webpages](#) on how to request a letter from the university.

We have a [guide](#) to the different bank account options for international students.

The account available to international students is a 'Basic' bank account.

Debit card

Direct debits/ standing orders

No credit/ overdraft

Most basic accounts are very similar, but you should check rates for payments from outside the UK, and any restrictions.



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Timeframes and back up plans

It can take several weeks to open a UK bank account. Banks are particularly busy at the start of the academic year opening student accounts.

Cash is accepted in most shops in the UK, but University of Brighton campus outlets are all cashless. You can use cash on buses in Brighton, but the driver will give you change in the form of a voucher.

Please make sure you have access to a credit or debit card for use in the UK while you are waiting to open a UK account.

For safety reasons, please do not bring large amounts of cash with you.



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Mobile Phones



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UK mobile phone options

+ SIM only pay as you go

Can use your existing handset and only add credit when you need it; can cancel at any point. Calls and data costs usually more expensive than monthly deals.

+ SIM only deals

Can use your existing handset; range of deal lengths, attracts better deals in terms of cost of calls and data. Credit agreement – you must keep up with payments.

+ Handset contract

Useful if you need/ want a new phone; some contracts include perks like access to streaming services. You will be locked into the deal for the length of the contract, and will be higher monthly cost. Credit agreement – you must keep up with payments.



• UK networks

+ The main UK network providers are:

+ EE

+ O2

+ Three

+ Vodafone

+ They also support many of the smaller mobile networks who 'piggyback' on their wider network. All four have 99% 4G coverage across the UK. Before you commit to a network you can use the [Ofcom mobile coverage checker](#) to make sure it will give you the access you need.

+ For more information on the different mobile providers see this guide from [Compare the Market](#).

+ See our full guide: [Mobile Phone Guide 2022 | \(brighton.ac.uk\)](#)



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Working in the UK



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Working in the UK

If you are studying a degree course at the University of Brighton – will be permitted to work 20 hours per week during ‘term time’.

Check your BRP or online status to make sure you have been given the correct permission to work. Contact us if you think there has been an error.

What is a week?

A week is defined in the Immigration Rules as a 7 day period starting on a Monday. You must be sure to stay within the weekly limit. You cannot work more than 20 hours one week, and less than 20 the next to ‘average out’ your working hours.

What is ‘term time’?

Outside of ‘term time’ you can work more than 20 hours a week. In other words during times when you are not required to undertake any academic work, whether in-person or self-study or when you have completed your course, you can work more than 20 hours per week/full time.

The dates you are considered to be on vacation/outside of term-time for these purposes depends on the type of course you are studying, as well as University policy on when you are expected to be actively engaging with your course.



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Working in the UK

What type of work is not permitted on your student visa?

It is a breach of your visa conditions to undertake the following type of work on a student visa:

- Self-employment, e.g., working as a freelance or contractor, or selling goods and services. For further information on what is considered to be self-employment, please see [UK government information on self-employment](#)
- Business activity (See the [Student caseworker guidance](#) for examples of business activities)
- Professional sportsperson
- Entertainer
- Permanent full-time job
- Work as a dentist or doctor in training (unless you applied for your visa after 1 Dec 2020)

[UKCISA blog](#) has good examples of some of the more common queries about Student work permissions.



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Working in the UK

Evidence proving your right to work

Your employer is required to obtain evidence of your right to work including when you can work more than the 20 hour minimum.

If you need a letter confirming the dates you are on term time, you can request one by emailing StudentAdministration@brighton.ac.uk from your University email address and clearly stating you need a letter confirming your course dates, including term dates for work purposes.

You can also submit a request for this letter from your [My Brighton account](#).



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National Insurance Number

To work in the UK you will need to apply for a National Insurance Number.

Details of how to [apply online](#). It is free to apply for an NI number. Do not use any other sites to apply, especially not if they ask for payment!

You can start working before your NI number has come through – you need to explain to your employer that you have applied but are waiting for it to be issued.

Your income tax should be deducted from your wages by your employer. Information on rates of tax [here](#). Personal allowance of £12,570 per year before you pay tax.



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Working in the UK

Work placements

You can work full-time as part of a work placement (i.e. a placement that is an assessed part of your course). You can also work 20 hours per week in a part time in addition to these hours.

Master's Students

Term dates do not apply in the same way as for undergraduate students and will also vary depending on the course and cohort you are on. In most cases you cannot work more than 20 hours per week during the University vacations.



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Careers Service

Careers Connect hub for graduate work, volunteering opportunities, and casual/ part time work.

Online resources such as guide to finding part time work, writing a CV, completing application forms and writing covering letters.

Career Development Advisers who can offer more detailed advice on looking for work.



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Questions about life in the UK?

internationaladvice@brighton.ac.uk

Our webpages have information on living in the UK: [Living in the UK \(brighton.ac.uk\)](http://brighton.ac.uk/living-in-the-uk)

