

DO'S AND DON'TS OF FRESHERS' WEEK



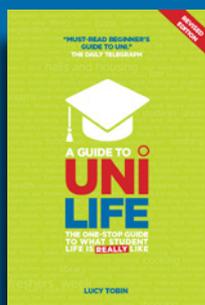
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Do

- ✓ Attend all the meetings that have been scheduled by your university or freshers' week organisers, since they will probably be where you sign up for modules, receive passwords and organise your timetable.
- ✓ Download one of the free internet phone services on your phone or laptop to keep in contact with both new and old friends for free.
- ✓ Locate/register/write down the details of your uni's IT support helpline. If and when you lose your 5000-word essay ten minutes before deadline, they'll be useful people to know.
- ✓ Join societies that match your interests - or inspire new ones. I met new people doing things as diverse as archery, badminton, and on the committee of a garden party.
- ✓ Sort out your finances as soon as possible.
- ✓ Attend library tours and induction meetings. If you do miss it, ask the librarian early on for a catch-up session.
- ✓ Swap mobile numbers early on - it's a good idea to have the number of someone nearby who you can meet up with in the first few days.
- ✓ Keep in contact with home - your parents will want to know you're OK, and it can make you feel better to know that someone you love is looking out for you from afar.
- ✓ Register with a local doctor and dentist.
- ✓ Have a map of campus and the local town for those inevitable times when you get lost.

Don't

- ✗ Feel like it's the end of the world if you don't join in with everything. I ended up watching films and doing crosswords with a girl I hadn't met before on one night in freshers' week and ended up becoming best friends.
- ✗ Accept your accommodation if you're unhappy. If someone is making your life difficult, or something is physically wrong with your accommodation, speak to the housing officer - sooner rather than later.
- ✗ Panic if you think you don't fit in - it's early days and you're bound to make friends soon.
- ✗ Pull too many people too early on - it's harder to lose a bad reputation than it is to make one.
- ✗ Forget your old friends - after a month or so, when you're settled in, invite them to stay with you for a weekend and introduce them to your new mates.



Want to know more about what student life is really like? Check out Lucy Tobin's *A Guide to Uni Life*

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