



We're here to help you make the most of your time at Leeds. Send thoughts and feedback to the [student communications team](#). You can also join our [Facebook group for current students](#), follow [@UoLStudents on Twitter](#) or visit [students.leeds.ac.uk](http://students.leeds.ac.uk) for everything you'll need while at Leeds.

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## Your new home

How's your new place going? Whether you're a new student or back in Leeds for another year, we hope it's been a positive start to the term.

Sometimes it's easy to forget to look after yourself when you're away from home; [looking after ourselves and others](#) is really important, and helps us stay on top of challenges and find ways of coping if things don't go as smoothly as we'd hope.

If you're in rented accommodation, then it's important to know the [rules around noise in the community](#) have changed. There's lots of things that you can do to [avoid noise complaints](#), and the subsequent fines and prosecutions that may be enforced by the council and police.

### *Are you registered to vote?*

You may have registered to vote when you registered as a student. If not you can do this on the [Leeds City council website](#).

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## Minerva issues – message from Tom Ward (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education) and Tim Peakman (Chief Operating Officer)

Dear students

You'll all be aware that Minerva has fallen over several times this year, and I am very sorry this has happened. We know how important Minerva is to your educational experience and we are doing everything possible to stabilise the system and ensure it is available to you all of the time. In the short term additional monitoring of the system has been put in, and detailed work has been going on with the suppliers of the system to understand what is happening. The good news is that Minerva is more stable than it was a week ago, and is recovering from problems quicker.

The less welcome news is that we do not have a definitive fix and must view the system as at risk for now. The problems are due to the hardware on which Minerva runs, which are reaching their end of life, and will be replaced after the end of term in December. This will bring the underlying

technology up to date, and we are confident will provide the level of stability expected of a system so critical to learning. Apologies again for the huge disruption that the outages have caused to your learning over the last few weeks, and thank you for the patience you have shown.

[Find out how to access essential information when Minerva is unavailable.](#)

With best wishes

Tom Ward (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education)

Tim Peakman (Chief Operating Officer)

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### **Careers service**

It's the busiest time of the year at the Careers Service, so you might experience a longer wait at drop-in or struggle to get an appointment with a consultant. Arrive early for the best chance at drop-in, and remember new appointments are released on MyCareer every day – so keep checking.

How can we help without an appointment? Search for what you need on the [careers service website](#) – there's loads of resources, including access to our digital CV checker.

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### **Learn online for free**

You can now boost your employability and learn new skills through [LinkedIn Learning](#) for free. Courses on specialist software, skills for data analysis, and professional courses on teamwork and presentations could help you develop the skills you need for the career you want. Just log in using your University username and password. There's a [quick start guide](#) on the IT website.

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### **Keep informed about Brexit**

We know there is uncertainty around Brexit for students at the University. You can find our latest information, guidance and useful links on our [Brexit page](#).

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### **Deadlines for letting us know if you need to make personalised exam arrangements**

Let us know by Friday 25 October if you need us to make [personalised exam arrangements](#) for your semester 1 exams. This may be for religious observance, disability or other reasons.

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### **Volunteering opportunities in local schools**

Do you want to inspire enthusiasm in local school pupils to learn about our interconnected world? [Students into Schools Go Global](#) gives you the opportunity to volunteer as part of a team to create fun and educational after school clubs in local schools. Apply by Sunday 20 October.

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### **Intercultural ambassadors programme**

Develop your employability skills, contribute to the community, make an impact and have fun as part of the intercultural ambassadors programme. It's a great opportunity for anyone looking for a new challenge in an intercultural setting. [Apply to be an ambassador](#) by Sunday 20 October 2019.

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### **Thinking about your next academic step?**

If you're interested in learning about Masters or PhD study, you can find out more at the Russell Group Postgraduate Study Roadshow in the Parkinson Building on 8 November. [Don't forget to register to attend](#). It's your chance to meet all 24 Russell Group universities and speak to them about postgraduate study opportunities. You'll also be able to attend informative talks and get funding advice.

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### **Information security week**

Learn how to stay safe online and keep your data safe during [Information Security Week](#) next week. There'll be presentations from Santander, the police, and the University's IT assurance team. Look out for the quizzes and games – there are prizes to be won!

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### **Lock it up**

If you're a cyclist, then make sure your bike is safe at all times using a D Lock. You can get one for just £20 from the [Security Office](#), your [halls of residence](#) and also the [bike hub](#) on campus.

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### **Celebrating sustainability successes**

Our [sustainability report](#) for the past year is now available to read. The report, which was independently verified by a group of students, highlights successes of students as well as staff and partners in sustainable projects in 2017/18. Highlights include a 95% increase in the number of student hours spent on sustainability initiatives, and the growth of our [Leeds Sustainable Curriculum](#).

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### **British conference of undergraduate research – get involved**

If you're an undergraduate you're invited to submit an abstract to the largest conference dedicated exclusively to undergraduate research in the UK. Posters, presentations and performances will be considered for the conference, which will be held at Leeds on 6 and 7 April next year. Submissions on all research, from any discipline, are invited. [Submit your abstract for BCUR20](#) by 5 January 2020.

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### **Learn about archiving**

Do you collect objects, art or documents? Are you interested in archiving? If so, this workshop is for you.

Join archivists from our Special Collections and Galleries Team, and get practical advice on how to store, arrange and describe your records, including analogue and digital formats. [Book your place on the seminar](#).

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Here are some events to check out in Leeds University Union (LUU):

#### **What's on**

- [Food and drink](#) – food challenge and Global Cafe
- [Black History month activities](#)
- [Careers and work](#) – enhance your CV network and Linked In, plus more
- [Representation](#) – decolonising workshops, being visually prepared for the visually impaired and having your say on the union
- [Evening entertainment](#) – films, open mic, language exchange and Fruity haunted house anyone?
- [Sport](#)

- Record and book fair – Thursday 24 October, 10am – 4pm, Riley Smith Theatre, LUU

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Do you have any feedback for us on your experience at the University, or student life at Leeds?  
Tell us [what's on your mind](#).