



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 for everything you'll need while at Leeds.

Industrial action

As you may know, the UCU (Universities and College Union) have planned for eight days of industrial action at 60 universities over pay and pensions. The following applies at Leeds:

- 1) There will be strike action on 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 November and 2, 3, 4 December 2019.
- 2) Action short of a strike will take place from 25 November 2019 continuously until no later than 29 April 2020. This will mean that staff who are taking part in industrial action will be:
 - working to contract
 - not covering for absent colleagues
 - not rescheduling lectures or classes cancelled due to strike action
 - not sharing materials relating to lectures or classes cancelled as result of strike action
 - not undertaking voluntary activities

Our priority throughout this time is to minimise any disruption to students. We will do all that we can to recover missed learning opportunities.

If you're affected by the industrial action, you can [find out more information on our question and answers page](#). We'll be updating this when more information becomes available.

Minerva maintenance this December

We apologise for the periods when Minerva has been unavailable this week. We're doing everything we can to improve the stability of the system.

Minerva will be unavailable between 12pm on Friday, 13 December and 3pm on Tuesday, 17 December. During this time, we will be undertaking work to make the system more resilient; improving the accessibility and availability of Minerva for students and staff.

We've carefully considered the timing of this work and see this as the least disruptive period to carry out this vital maintenance.

Teaching staff have been asked to move any assessment deadlines that fall within this time to make sure the impact on you is reduced as much as possible.

Please be aware of this period of unavailability when planning your work or revision, as teaching materials in Minerva will be unavailable. For more advice on this please see [our guide to the planned period of unavailability](#).

If you have any questions about how this affects you, please [contact your school](#).

Where to get help and support

Knowing where to go to and who can help if you need a bit of extra help is really important. If you want someone to check over the contract on your new house for next year, can't get your head around revision or need specific technical equipment adapted to help you access learning, we've put together a really useful set of links where you can quickly get the info you need. [Find out where to get help and support](#).

Register to vote – it only takes five minutes!

A general election is set to take place on 12 December 2019. If you're not sure whether you'll be in Leeds on that date, you can [register to vote](#) at both your home and your term-time address – although you can only vote once. It only takes five minutes to register to vote – make sure you do it before the **deadline of 11.59pm on 26 November**. You can also vote by post, or by proxy, where someone else votes on your behalf.

- If you want to apply to vote by post, register for this by 5pm on 26 November.
- If you want to register for a [proxy vote](#), you need to do this by 5pm on 4 December.
- Registering to vote in person, by post, or by proxy, needs to be done by 5pm on 21 November if you want to register at your home address if this is in Northern Ireland.

Find out more on the [Electoral Commission's website](#).

Money laundering – don't be fooled

If you are approached online or in person by an individual or organisation asking for your bank details, and they are not genuine, you may find yourself involved in money laundering. They might post what looks like a genuine job advert – if it seems too good to be true though, it probably is. Learn how to [protect yourself from this crime](#). If you think you might have been targeted by fraudsters you can contact [LUU help and support](#).

Staying safe

Don't forget, as the days are getting shorter you might find yourself travelling home from University in the dark. It's important to [be prepared and stay safe](#). Did you know you can use the LUU nightbus, which will take you home for just £1?

Alcohol survey – win £100

Take part in the [NUS survey about your views on drinking alcohol](#) and be in with a chance of winning £100 or one of ten £25 runner up prizes (you don't need to drink alcohol to take part).

Graduating this winter?

If you're graduating this winter, then there's a few things you'll need to do to prepare.

Find out:

- [How to register to attend a graduation ceremony](#) (the deadline is 21 November)
 - [Graduation dates and times](#)
 - [Tickets](#) (extra tickets are released 27 November at 12pm for 48 hours)
 - [Everything you need to know about graduation](#)
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Discover something new in only five minutes in our galleries!

Join the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery, in the Parkinson Building, for a [monthly Quick Pick](#). Pop in for 5 minutes to hear our staff's personal responses to an object on display in our Galleries and perhaps uncover a few little known stories or facts at the same time.

Quick Picks are only short so please don't be late or you might miss it!

The talks are 12.30pm and 12.45pm, then repeated at 1pm and 1.15pm.

Summer Abroad Fair

Want to make the most of your summer? Come along to the [Summer Abroad Fair](#) in LUU Foyer on Wednesday 4 December (11am – 2pm) to find out about all of the summer opportunities that the University has to offer, and speak to other students about their experience.

What's on

[The Great Winter Exchange](#) – Wed 27 November, 10am-3pm, Riley Smith (LUU) – refresh your wardrobe with a clothes swap, donate food to a foodbank, and charity stalls. A perfect start to preparing for the end of term.

[Wellbeing support](#) – Everything from yoga, and meditation, to alcohol and drugs drop in and victim support.

[Careers and work](#) – too BAME for a PhD? Preparing for job interviews?

[Give it a go \(GIAG\)](#) – Pot your own plant, water polo, oat milk making and paintballing (not all together).

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](#).