

Welcome to Leeds

International orientation

students.leeds.ac.uk/orientation



Disclaimer

All content in this presentation has been prepared for the 2026/27 academic year and is subject to future updates or modifications.

Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor and President



Professor Shearer West

Aims and plans for today

Aims

- Formally welcome you to Leeds
- Inspire you to make the most of your experience here
- Suggest ways to start getting involved with university and local life
- Make sure you know about other orientation and settling in support

Outline

- Vice-Chancellor's welcome message
- Orientation quiz
- Meet your LUU Student Executive
- Activities and opportunities
- Enjoy the City of Leeds this term
- Student panel – ask your questions using Vevox
- Final messages and feedback

International orientation Webinars

- Money and Banking webinar
- Healthcare and Wellbeing webinar
- Safety and Support in Leeds
- Using your student visa to live, study and work in the UK
- Jobs, careers and volunteering in the UK
- Preparing to Study; Bridging Academic Expectations webinars
- Embracing (Culture) Change (interactive workshop)
- Culture Shock Comedy Drama – live performance

From 28 September, you'll be able to download the slides and access recordings at: Students.leeds.ac.uk/orientation



Student Information Service

Get help with questions relating to registration, module enrolment, and a range of other matters related to university life, your studies and more throughout your time at Leeds.

- **Visit the Welcome Hub, in the Parkinson building** or another information point on campus.
- Available Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm.
- Email: studentinfo@leeds.ac.uk
- Phone:
0800 9150402 (Inside the UK)
+44 (0)113 3437000 (Outside the UK)

students.leeds.ac.uk/askforhelp



Meet your LUU student executive

Keep Vevox open to ask your questions



Keep showing up

Hi, I'm Dubem, your
International Student
Experience Exec.



“But my first few days were not exactly the movie version of university life.

My flat was basically empty for about five days. I didn’t really know anyone, and I had no idea Freshers’ Fair was even a thing.

So while other people were out discovering societies and events, I was mostly in my room **playing** Infinite Warfare **on my PS4.**

Looking back, it’s funny, but it’s also one reason I care so much about international students having the right information when they arrive.

I don’t want someone else to miss opportunities simply because they didn’t know they existed.”



THE STARTING POINT

**Not exactly
the movie version**

Empty flat.

Missed Freshers’ Fair.

PS4.

Missing opportunities is easy when you don’t know they exist.

Things changed once I started showing up

“I also became a course rep for Architectural Engineering. If I’m being truthful, I first applied because I thought it would look good on my CV.
But I ended up really enjoying hearing what students were struggling with, raising those issues and being able to help. I did the role for all three years.
Somewhere along the way, Leeds stopped feeling like somewhere I had just moved to and started feeling like somewhere I belonged.”



Societies

Course rep

Student voice



“I’ve found my people here.”

A cold night. A rooftop terrace. Games, laughter and friends.

“One of my favourite memories is a winter evening when a few of us sat on the rooftop terrace of a friend’s accommodation. It was freezing, we all had our jackets on, and we just talked, played games and laughed until late.

It wasn’t a huge university event. But looking back, that was one of those moments when I realised: **I’ve found my people here.**

That journey is a big reason I eventually decided to represent international students.

I wanted to become the kind of person I wish I had known in first year, someone who could help students understand what is available and make Leeds easier to navigate.

In my role, I represent international students and work on things that affect your experience here, from improving guarantor options and creating more cultural events, to tackling accent bias and supporting international students as they prepare for life after university.”

THREE THINGS

What I wish someone had told me

- 01 **Show up**
Say yes to more than usual.
- 02 **Give context**
“I’ve just moved here...”
- 03 **Try something new**
350+ societies. Pick one.

“So, there are three things I wish somebody had told me when I arrived.
First, show up.

Go to orientation. Go to Welcome Week. Collect the freebies. Say yes to more things than you normally would.
Second, when you meet people, give them context.

Instead of just walking up to someone and saying, “What’s your name?”, try: “Hi, I’ve just moved here from Nigeria and I’m trying to meet new people. What’s your name?”

It makes starting that conversation much easier.

Third, try something completely new.

Leeds has over 350 societies. Pick something you’ve never done before. I still think I should have tried rock climbing.”

Leeds University Union



LUU is here all year

LUU Advice

When you don't know who to ask

LUU Engage

Find events and societies

Global Café

Meet international and local students

You don't have to figure everything out in your first week.

Just keep showing up, and eventually, Leeds becomes your home away from home.

Come and say hello if you see me around campus.



Activities and opportunities

Check these web pages throughout the year for:

- Events across campus
students.leeds.ac.uk/leedsandyou
- Events in the Leeds University Union
engage.luu.org.uk



Global Café

Come to Global Café for a relaxed way to meet new and current students.

Between 14 and 25 September – every day

5.30 - 7.30pm, in Common Ground in the Leeds University Union.

From 28 September onwards – every Monday

5.30 - 7.30pm, in Common Ground in the Leeds University Union.

students.leeds.ac.uk/globalcafe



Buddy scheme

The Buddy scheme will connect you with a student from across the University who shares:

- Similar interests to you
- Your same level of study

Applications are open — Find your people at Leeds.
Start connecting from now.

students.leeds.ac.uk/universitybuddy



World Unite Festival

Immerse yourself in culture – come celebrate our diverse campus!

- A year long programme of student-led events from Leeds University Union
- Music, shows, workshops and more!

Look out for more information on World Unite Festival in the coming months.



The Language Zone

- **Dedicated language learning centre** with resources, self-study materials, and spaces to help students improve their language skills.
- **Support for over 80 languages** with access books, online tools, and resources for conversation practice.
- **Opportunities for practice**, including language exchanges, workshops, and events that connect learners with native speakers and peers.

students.leeds.ac.uk/languagezone



Active Campus

The Active Campus programme at Leeds offers fun, inclusive, and affordable activities with no long-term commitment required.

The programme gives students the opportunity to stay active, make friends, and boost their wellbeing.

Popular activities include:

- Social runs around campus
- Low-cost yoga, pilates and hyrox sessions.
- Climbing, pickleball and team games.

<https://sport.leeds.ac.uk/active-campus/>



Host UK

The **HOST UK programme** connects international students with welcoming UK families for short visits.

- Take part in a unique cultural exchange.
- Experience life beyond campus.
- Improve your cultural awareness, practice English, and form friendships with local families.
- Apply early if you want to visit at Christmas time.

[Ways to meet people and get involved](#)



LUU clubs, societies, events and trips

Welcome Week is a week of events when you can discover clubs and societies and join exciting events.

Come to the Welcome Fair, join in taster sessions, and take part in social events.

Go to engage.luu.org.uk/events for all activities in September and beyond!



Enjoy the city of Leeds and beyond!

Events and activities in the City, all year round:

- Leeds Inspired
www.leedsinspired.co.uk
- Visit Leeds
www.visitleeds.co.uk/whats-on



Light Night Leeds

28 – 29 October

UK's largest light art festival, happening across the city, including on campus, in October.

An arts and culture festival that lights up the city with creative installations, performances, projections, music and immersive artistic events over one or more nights.

www.lightnightleeds.co.uk



Leeds International Film Festival

29 October – 15 November

The UK's largest film festival outside London, offering a diverse and inclusive platform for international cinema.

LIFF showcases over 250 films from more than 120 countries, featuring a mix of feature films, short films, documentaries, and genre-specific screenings.

www.leedsfilm.com



Marathons and park runs

- **Every Saturday**
The [Woodhouse Moor parkrun](#) is a free, weekly 5K event welcoming participants of all ages and abilities to walk, jog, run, or volunteer.
- **29 November 2026**
The [Leeds Abbey Dash 10K](#) is a charity run through the heart of Leeds.
- **9 May 2027**
The [Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon](#) is a 26.2-mile race through Leeds.



Christmas in Leeds

Visit the Christmas markets from 19 November and join in activities offered on campus and in the city out of term time.

The [Leeds and You page](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/leedsandyou) will be updated in December with more information on out-of-term activities.

students.leeds.ac.uk/leedsandyou



Final messages

Remember **you're not alone.**

Look for help whenever you need it

Be patient and kind with yourself and others

Take part in activities and **come out of your comfort zone**



Questions and feedback

- **Visit the Welcome Hub** or email studentinfo@leeds.ac.uk
- **Meet our student hosts**
Come to [Global Café](#)
- **Slides and resources**
students.leeds.ac.uk/orientation

Please tell us what you thought about today's talk.

Prize draw!

Win one of four £30 "Love2Shop" vouchers.

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Tinyurl.com/W2L26

