



The bottom half of the image shows several pieces of luggage on a grey surface. On the left is a blue and red striped bag. In the center is a large black and red backpack. On the right is a red bag with a black strap. A grey bag is partially visible in the bottom left corner.

Moving away to university
A Guide for students

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Welcome

At the University of Southampton, we recognise that deciding whether or not to move away from home for your studies is a tough decision to make.

For many students, moving away from home to study at university enhances their experience and presents a number of opportunities that wouldn't otherwise be available:

- The chance to choose a course that really suits their interests, rather than picking the best available locally
- Making the most of the opportunities living somewhere new provides; from playing in a sports team or joining a society, to taking a day trip to the beach or having a go at wind surfing
- Improving their earning potential by being more prepared to move to a new location in order to secure the best available job when they graduate

This guide is designed to give you an insight as to why students move away to university, the types of accommodation available and the support provided by the University of Southampton to make sure that students living away from home are happy, safe and successful.

What our students say



Name

Alexandra Loveridge

Course

BSc Marine Biology with
Oceanography

Where's home for you?

Paris, France

Distance from Southampton

217 miles

Where do you live at University?

University of Southampton Halls -
Highfield Halls, Aubrey House

What worried you the most about moving to a new place to study?

'My main worry was that I wouldn't be able to take responsibility for myself; the whole idea of looking after myself and being pretty much independent was quite a scary thought!

I also worried about not making any new friends at university as being in a new place and not knowing anyone was unnerving, especially because I had left my whole life behind in a completely different country! I was concerned that the cultural differences between the French and the English would be very large and that I wouldn't fit in.'

How did you find your first week living away from home?

'At first I found it very daunting because I didn't know the city or anybody at the University. However, I soon realized that everybody was in the same boat, which made people far more open and willing to make friends. On the second day after moving in, a large group of people from my halls went to explore the campus together, so I was able to discover both the University and make new friends at the same time.'

How has moving away helped to develop you as a person?

'I have had to take responsibility for myself, firstly academically: lecturers will not tell you to hand in work, or chase you up if you do not attend lectures, I have improved my time management as we regularly get projects from different modules that need to be completed at the same time as each other. You also have to take responsibility for developing academic skills and furthering the information you acquire in lectures through university run workshops and further reading.

Moving away has also helped me to develop personally: I am definitely a lot more confident than I was when I first came to university. Having to take responsibility for myself has allowed me to become a person in my own right. I've also developed a few other 'life' skills, from experimental cooking to booking appointments and doing my own washing.'

What piece of advice would you give to someone who's trying to decide whether or not to move away to university?

'Moving away from home to university has been one of the best choices that I have made, and I don't regret any part of it. However, it is undeniably a huge change and being responsible for yourself can be challenging. My piece of advice would be to throw yourself into the university experience and try new things even if you don't necessarily think you'll like them. You'll probably meet some amazing people and have a great time doing so!'



Exciting opportunities

One of the advantages of moving away from home to study at university is getting the opportunity to fully integrate with all aspects of student life.

At the University of Southampton, our Students' Union offers a host of different events and activities throughout the year, ensuring you are never short of things to do when it's time for a break from the library.



Moving away from home means you can:

- Experience Freshers' Fortnight - two weeks packed full of activities and events to help you settle into university life
- Discover a new talent and try some of our 92 sports clubs, from archery to taekwondo
- Join one of over 200 student societies, from chess to fashion, performing arts to wildlife protection

- Swim in our six-lane, 25-metre swimming pool and use the varied fitness equipment across our four gyms
- Have fun and give back with RAG (Raise and Give) who organise fundraising events to benefit local and national charities
- Socialise in our four on campus bars including The Stag's and The Bridge
- View art exhibitions at the John Hansard Gallery, watch a play at the Nuffield theatre or listen to live music from jazz to classical at Turner Sims Concert Hall
- Become a DJ or Director at Surge Radio or our television station SUSUtv
- See high-profile acts, such as Labyrinth or Ella Eyre, or have a quiet evening with friends

 **Find out more**

www.susu.org

A new city to explore

One of the most appealing aspects of moving away to university is having a brand new environment to explore.

With our Unilink bus service providing a convenient way to get around Southampton, meeting friends in the city centre, or enjoying a sunny afternoon in the green space of Southampton Common is easy and affordable.



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The City of Southampton at a glance:

- A vibrant student city with over 40,000 students making it their home
- A new £175m cultural quarter
- Home to Southampton Common, a huge green outdoor space located right next to campus
- Great for shopping and ranked in the Top 15 retail destinations in the UK
- A diverse collection of theatres and cinemas
- Art galleries and museums housing everything from ancient culture to cutting edge designs
- Variety of music venues, O2 Guildhall Southampton, The Brook and The Joiners
- Premier League football club





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- 01 Uni-Link buses will take you from your campus to the University of Southampton, Highfield Interchange
- 02 Enjoy the vibrant Southampton city centre
- 03 Southampton boasts a huge range of great places to eat and drink
- 04 The ancient City of Winchester is well worth exploring
- 05 Southampton's Ocean Village is another great venue for eating and drinking



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- Easy access to the M3 and M27 motorways
- Close to the beach with Bournemouth, Poole and the Isle of Wight on our doorstep

Winchester

- Just 12 miles north of Southampton, Winchester offers a wide variety of pubs and restaurants, museums, theatres and galleries.
- It is home to the 11th century cathedral and the Great Hall that houses the mysterious Round Table of King Arthur.
- Spectacular architecture is complimented by bustling shopping streets, making Winchester the ideal home for a university campus.

- The nearby Ageas Bowl, home to national and international cricket
- Ranked in the top four places to live in Britain, based on economic growth
- Two mainline train stations with direct links to London in less than 80 minutes - Southampton Central and Southampton Parkway
- Southampton Airport links the City with Europe

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A home away from home

Living in halls at university can provide you with a comfortable home-away-from-home that is excellent value for money, and in convenient locations close to campuses and facilities.

With 6,500 student rooms available at the University of Southampton, we aim to provide something to suit everyone. There are a wide a range of en-suite and catered options available, with prices starting from £89 per week.*



What's included in the cost?

- All bills (gas, electric, water)
- Wi-fi and high speed internet connection**
- Uni-link bus pass***
- 24 hour support and services
- 24 hour security
- Variety of on-site facilities (e.g. common rooms and communal computers)
- Contents insurance

* Price is accurate for the academic year 2015/16

** Residents at Shaftesbury Avenue flats must organise their own internet connection

*** Excluding Erasmus Park





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- 01 City Gateway accomodation
- 02 Mayflower halls
- 03 Student room, Liberty halls
- 04 Students BBQ at Glen Eyre halls
- 05 Gateley halls of residence
- 06 City Gate halls of residence

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What our students say

**Name**

Melissa Anane

Course

BMBS Medicine and BMedSc

Where's home for you?

South London

Distance from Southampton

78 miles

Where do you live at University?

University of Southampton Halls - Glen Eyre Halls, South Hill

What worried you the most about moving to a new place to study?

'I heard that socialising mainly consisted of nights out where people got really drunk. Since this isn't something I particularly enjoy, I was worried I would miss out on making friends. This presumption was definitely proved wrong. Yes, there are nights out but there are also barbecues, ice cream parlours, movie nights and much more. Most people like a combination of both of things, so do whatever you enjoy.'

How did you find your first week living away from home?

'The first week was a mix of excitement and nerves. I loved walking around campus with my flatmates, decorating my new room and participating in lots of society taster events. Quiz nights and foam parties all played a part in my first week, quickly diffusing any nerves I had about moving away.'

How has moving away helped to develop you as a person?

'University is definitely a place to try out new things and become involved in a local and national community. I have become more adventurous, regularly trying new sports such as snowboarding and attending the gym. Each week I have challenged myself to cook something unfamiliar which has broadened my horizons too.

I have joined societies that work with the local community as well, allowing me opportunity to give something back.

I have also improved my ability to balance my time between my study and a positive lifestyle. As a result, my engagement in my course has been consistent and I feel relaxed enough to enjoy the challenge of one day becoming a great doctor.'

What piece of advice would you give to someone who's trying to decide whether or not to move away to university?

'Challenge yourself. Put yourself out of your comfort zone and meet new people, gain new skills and have a great time. The ability to balance responsibility with enjoying life is something you'll definitely gain if you move away to university.'

Help to settle in

If you live in our halls of residence there is dedicated support provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is available in case students experience an emergency as well as to support your health and wellbeing.

The University's accommodation support team:

- Provide advice and information on all accommodation matters
- Provide support to individuals or groups in the event of any emergency or problem
- Signpost to services that may be needed, or would help to improve students experience in halls
- Guide residents on how to live in a healthy, safe and secure environment
- Work with our 11 student led Halls Committees to arrange social events that bring residents together
- Help everyone to live with consideration for other residents in halls, and nearby
- Promote an understanding and explanation of the halls contract and regulations



[Find out more](#)

www.southampton.ac.uk/studentservices

Managing your money

When moving away from home, one of the biggest changes you will experience is having complete control over your finances. Whilst most students thoroughly enjoy this new found freedom, it can also be quite a daunting prospect.

The University of Southampton has a team of trained Financial Information and Assistance Advisers on hand who are happy to give advice and information on budgeting, so that students can stay in control of their money.



Here are some of their top tips:

- Make sure you are receiving all of the funding you are entitled to. University Advice Centres can help you check this
- Check your bank statements regularly to see where you spend most in order to budget effectively
- Open a student bank account that will have an interest free overdraft. This will help you out in an emergency
- Many banks will offer incentives like a free railcard if you open an account with them, so shop around
- Make a shopping list and stick to it. The little extras add up
- Take advantage of heavily subsidised and free events taking place on campus
- It can often be cheaper to buy second-hand books. The library will also have copies of all core texts
- Part-time work can boost your income and provide valuable transferable skills. However be sensible, the Students' Union recommend that students limit part-time work to 16 hours per week

 **Find out more**

www.southampton.ac.uk/fia

A successful future

An important reason for making the decision to go to university, is to take the step toward realising your ambitions. Living away from home allows you the opportunity to take full advantage of a range of services offered by universities, designed to help graduates build a successful future.

Every year the University of Southampton helps thousands of students explore, develop and shape their future through connecting them with hundreds of organisations, graduate recruiters and further study providers. Some examples are given below of graduates who made the most of their time at Southampton.



Professor Diana Eccles

Cancer Specialist

Diana Eccles, Professor of Cancer Genetics, investigates the role of inherited genetic mutation in breast cancer risk and prognosis, with the aim of improving diagnosis management of the disease

Gareth Rogers

Football Club CEO

As a football fan, accounting and economics graduate Gareth Rogers has his ideal job. He is Chief Executive Officer at Southampton Football Club

Sue Langley

Financial Expert

Geography graduate Sue Langley is the Chief Executive of the UK Financial Services Investment Organisation. Her job is to strengthen the UK's reputation as the world's leading financial centre

Professor Bill Keevil

Tackling Superbugs

Bill Keevil, Professor of Microbiology, is investigating how copper surfaces in hospitals could eliminate the spread of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) like MRSA

What our students say

**Name**

Liam Bird

Course

BA Modern Languages

Where's home for you?

Colchester, Essex

Distance from Southampton

153 miles

Where do you live at University?

University of Southampton Halls
- Glen Eyre Halls, South Hill

What worried you the most about moving to a new place to study?

'I was not particularly concerned about moving away from home, because I was looking forward to the independence. What worried me most was the fact that I might not like my accommodation, or the people with whom I was living. Fortunately, though, this was not the case and I really enjoyed living in halls.'

How did you find your first week living away from home?

'Moving in before Fresher's Week was actually a great idea, as I could settle in and unpack without having to worry about lectures straight away. It also allowed more time to get to know my flatmates, and partake in social events without work being an obstacle.'

How has moving away helped to develop you as a person?

'Independence has become a huge factor in my life. Since coming to university, I have learned to cook, make a budget and live in an ideal working environment. Without any parents around to give rules, I have been able to work at my own pace, which I think has helped my grades and made me more relaxed.'

What piece of advice would you give to someone who's trying to decide whether or not to move away to university?

'I would definitely advise them to take the chance and come to university. Living away from home is not as scary as you might think. Between leaving sixth form and renting private accommodation in second year, there is an ideal transition: by living in halls, you are surrounded by friends and university staff members for support.'

How to find us

Southampton is a thriving, modern city, steeped in history and culture. Just over an hour south of London, Southampton has excellent transport links with the rest of the UK.



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Disclaimer

This brochure is prepared well in advance of the academic year to which it relates and the University offers the information contained in it as a guide only. While the University makes every effort to check the accuracy of the factual content at the time of drafting, some changes will inevitably have occurred in the interval between publication and the start of the relevant academic year. You should not therefore rely solely on this brochure and should contact the Enquiries Office for up-to-date information concerning fees, programme content and entry requirements for the current academic year. You should also consult the University's prospectus or go to www.southampton.ac.uk/inf/termsandconditions.html for more specific details about the limits of the University's liability in the event of changes to advertised courses/programmes and related information.

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