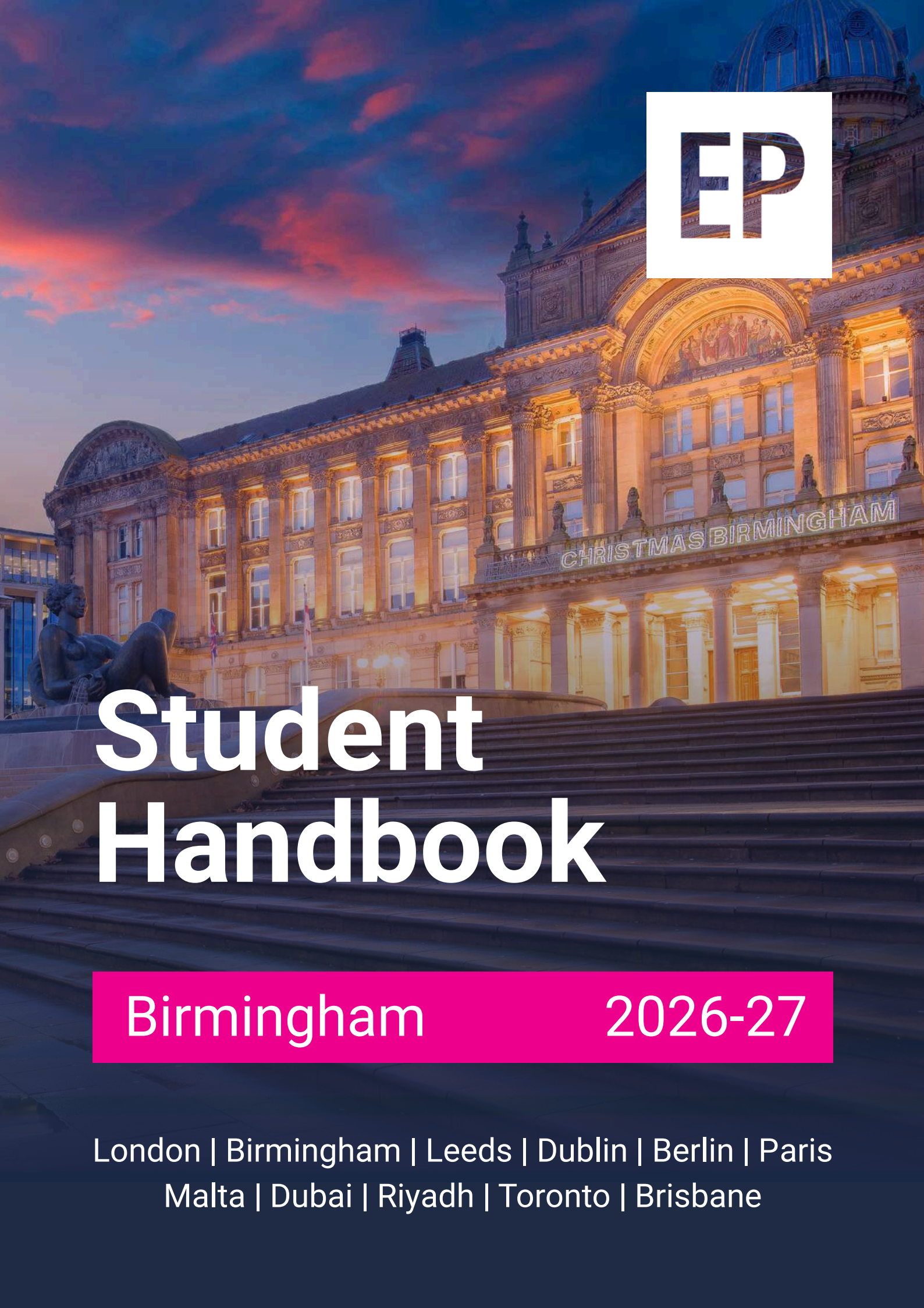


A photograph of the University of Birmingham's main building at night. The building is illuminated with warm yellow lights, and its windows are glowing. A large, ornate dome is visible on the right side. In the foreground, there are wide stone steps leading up to the building. A statue of a seated figure is visible on the left. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise. A white square logo with the letters 'EP' is in the top right corner.

EP

Student Handbook

Birmingham

2026-27

London | Birmingham | Leeds | Dublin | Berlin | Paris
Malta | Dubai | Riyadh | Toronto | Brisbane



Welcome to English Path.

This guide will help you make the most of your experience at EP Birmingham.

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5

Reasons to choose this city

1

Vibrant and diverse city with affordable living.

2

Varied restaurants and cuisines from all around the world.

3

Variety of cultural events and festivals all year round (art, music, dance).

4

Prestigious universities nearby such as the University of Birmingham.

5

600 parks and green areas to explore such as Lickey Hills.



About Birmingham

When you arrive for your English course in Birmingham, you will discover the lively culture of a vibrant, youthful city with a huge international student population. Our campus is located right in the heart of the city centre at Norfolk House, 84-86 Smallbrook Queensway. We are just minutes from New Street Station and the Bullring shopping centre.



City personality

Academic, active, artistic, big city, bike-friendly, creative, cultural, eco-friendly, foodie scene, friendly, green, iconic landmarks, modern, natural landscape, unique, vibrant, youngest city in Europe.



What makes Birmingham unique?

Second largest city in the UK with more canals than Venice! Diverse culture with a wide range of cuisines. Located in the Midlands with good transport links – can reach 90% of the UK in 4 hours!



Famous landmarks in Birmingham

The Bullring, St Martin's Cathedral, Victoria Square, Library of Birmingham, Cadbury World, Brindley Place Canals, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham Hippodrome, Cannon Hill Park.



Things to do nearby

Explore many museums to learn about Birmingham's history as an industrial city, visit the Custard Factory which has a variety of restaurants, bars and cafes as well as entertainment venues, watch a movie at Odeon Luxe or Everyman Cinema or satisfy your sweet tooth by visiting Cadbury World. Seek an adrenaline rush by going to Drayton Manor Theme Park.



Restaurants in Birmingham

American, British, Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, French, Greek, Indian, Italian, Sri Lankan, Mexican, Brazilian, Middle Eastern, Persian, Thai, Jamaican, Ethiopian, Seafood, Vegetarian.



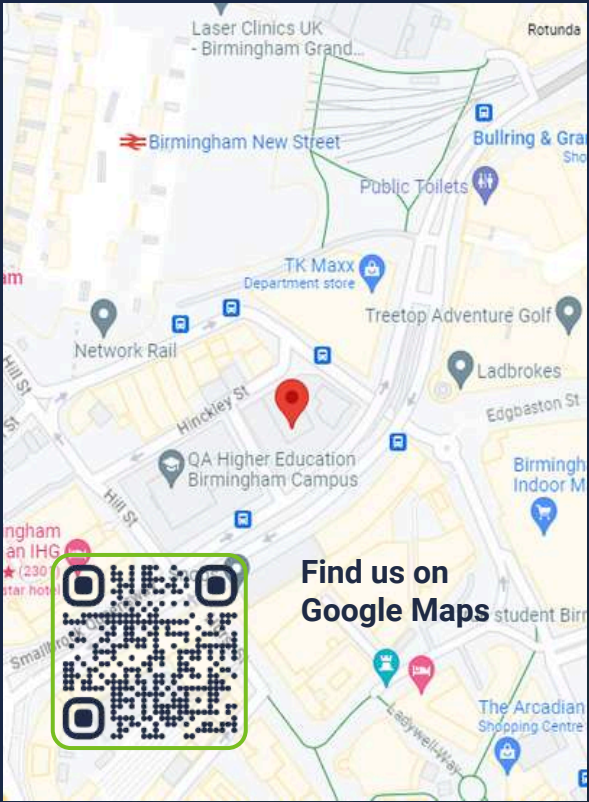
Transport in Birmingham

Train, Bus, Tram.



Why choose to study in our EP school?

- Located in the heart of **Birmingham City Centre**.
- **Great** transport links.
- **Minutes** from New Street station and bus stops.
- **Social programme** with weekend trips to Stratford upon Avon, Warwick Castle and many more.
- **Experienced** customer service & academic team.



Address: Norfolk House, 84-86 Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham, B5 4EG

Phone: +44 778 362 5497
Emergency: +44 74 940 02815



Services & Facilities

Buildings: 1
Floors: 1
Student capacity: 150

School facilities:
Student lounge, kitchen with microwaves, kettles and vending machines, library with computers and group study rooms, free Wi-Fi, modern & spacious classrooms with smart whiteboards, multifaith prayer room, heating and air conditioning.

Other services provided:
Social activity programme, airport transfer.

Levels of English offered: All levels

The Centre Manager and **Student Services** staff are based in an office next to your classrooms. They will always be present to answer any questions you may have.

Meet the team →



School holidays & UK public holidays

The school will be closed on Christmas week (unless Christmas Day & Boxing Day take place on the weekend). New Year's Day is also a public holiday; schools will also be closed on this day. Please make sure to book your course/ accommodation accordingly. Course days that fall on a public holiday are not reimbursed.

School holidays will be:	2026:
	25 - 31 Dec.
	2027:
	01 Jan, 26 Mar, 29 Mar, 03 May, 31 May, 30 Aug, 27 - 31 Dec.

The above dates are observed as holidays in the year. If you arrive on a week where the Monday is a holiday, your first day of school will be a Tuesday. If the Friday you finish your course is a bank holiday, your last day will be a Thursday.



Close to your school

Our centrally located school is walking distance to:

	Cafés and restaurants	1-5 minutes
	Birmingham New Street	2 minutes
	Birmingham Moor Street	6 minutes
	Bank	5 minutes
	Post office	8 minutes
	ATM	5 minutes
	Gym	5 minutes
	Supermarket	5 minutes
	Library of Birmingham	14 minutes
	The Bullring shopping centre	2 minutes
	Jewellery Quarter	22 minutes
	Brindley Place canals	20 minutes

Need help? Not satisfied? Have a problem?

At EP we believe that communication and an open-door policy is key to efficiently resolving any issue you might have. If you need help, are not satisfied with one of our services or you need advice, please talk to our staff at school. They will be able to help and assist quickly with any concerns you might have.



First day at school

- Induction starts at 08:45am.
- This includes a placement test, induction presentations about the school, academic programmes and school rules.
- Classes begin at 10:45 am.
- On your first day, you are expected to bring your passport, enrolment letter and VISA (if required).
- You will receive a welcome bag with complimentary goodies.
- You will have a tour of the local area in the afternoon after the classes.

Your weekly class timetable

	Hours pw	What	Lesson Times
Classic Morning	15	General English	09:00 - 12:15
Semi-intensive Morning	22	Classic Morning + Elective + Speaking Skills (Tues/Wed)	09:00 - 13:30 09:00 - 14:45 (Tues & Weds)
Classic English course + 6 month paid internship	English + Paid Hospitality Internship Programme		
Volunteering Programme	Retail volunteering / All other volunteering areas		
One-to-one	Custom topic & lesson times, based on student interest. Subject to availability		



Extracurricular activities

- Masterclass Programme
- Weekend trips during the summer months
- Conversation clubs
- Outdoor activities
- Pub socials
- Museum exploring



Skills classes

English Path offers three skills courses that let you develop your language for social, academic, and career contexts. They are an optional extra hour added to your General English lessons, included in Semi-Intensive or super-intensive, and are one of the best ways to get more from your time with EP. At A1-B1, everyone taking the extra Skills hour joins Communication Workshop, practical speaking, everyday vocabulary, and the confidence to manage daily life. At B1+ to C1, you choose your direction: Academic Skills covers English for Academic Purposes, critical thinking and exam preparation, including IELTS, for students heading to university. Career Skills covers business English, professional communication and employability, for students building their career. Both paths run at every EP campus, year-round.

Your skill options are based on your language level:

A1 - B1	B1+ - C1	
Communication Workshop Practical speaking, vocabulary and confidence for daily life.	Academic Skills Everything you need to prepare for university or academic English tests.	Career Skills Boost your employability and business English skills.



Teaching methodology

At English Path we build every course around five things:

- Real-world outcomes and future-ready skills: English for real life, not just the textbook.
- Adaptive teaching: teachers respond to what you and your class need.
- Iterative learning: you produce, get feedback, and refine, every week.
- Purposeful use of technology: digital coursebooks and presentation materials support your learning.
- Study clinics: free one-to-one support, help booking Cambridge and IELTS exams, and regular masterclasses.

All EP teachers are trained in this approach from day one, for a consistent experience across every EP location.



Important Information

Our classes operate on a rolling-enrolment basis, so you may join a class that has already started. It's normal to need 1–2 weeks to settle in and become familiar with the class and previously covered language. Our courses also follow a book cycle, with new coursebooks introduced at set points throughout the year.



School material

Books: Empower (Cambridge) Language Hub (Macmillan), Speakout (Pearson), English File (Oxford)

Additional material used: Audio, digital presentation material, authentic materials



Students

Maximum number of students per class: 15
Minimum age of students: 16
Average age of students: 25

End of course certificate: you will receive a course certificate at the end of your course.

Take a look at our graduation ceremony

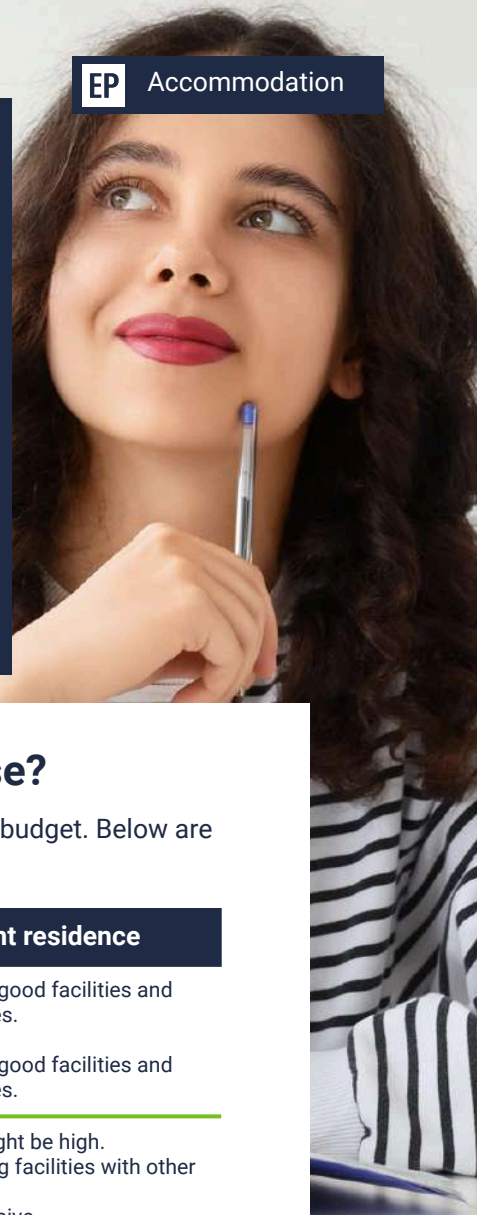




Accommodation

Accommodation is a vital part of your experience in a new country. Your new home is an important part of your study experience. Each school has specially chosen options to help make the most out of your stay. Homestay and student residences offer different accommodation experiences, but always try to meet the highest standards.

Please make sure you check with your representative, as all accommodation options are based on availability.



Which accommodation option should I choose?

The choice of accommodation depends on your preferences, needs, and budget. Below are some important factors you need to consider.

	Homestay	Student residence
👍	Immerse yourself in local culture & customs. Host assistance for queries. Towels, kitchen utensils, and more provided. Budget-friendly.	Easy access to good facilities and nearby amenities. 24h assistance. Easy access to good facilities and nearby amenities.
👎	May not be as social. Host family rules may apply. It can be up to 60 mins travel.	Noise levels might be high. Might be sharing facilities with other students. Might be expensive.

Booking student accommodation in 3 simple steps

Step 1

You can indicate your preferred type of accommodation (homestay or residence) on the application form during your application for a course. Our Student Services team will record the preferred choice of accommodation.

Step 2

EP will be able to secure the accommodation option once the invoice has been paid. Our team will send you the accommodation confirmation with further details on the selected option.

Step 3

You will need to confirm your arrival and send your flight details to our team as soon as the flight is booked and no later than one week before the flight date. Our team will be able to book and confirm your accommodation and/or transfers and provide more details within the confirmation document.

If you arrive at a residence or homestay between 22.00–08.00 you may be asked to book alternative accommodation in a hotel on the first night due to late/early arrival at the accommodation.



Homestay

Half board homestay* 2 meals per day (breakfast, dinner). 14 meals per week. (Mon-Sun).

Bed and breakfast* 1 meal per day (breakfast). 7 meals per week. (Mon-Sun).

Self catering - Adult homestay No meals provided. Student will be able to cook in the kitchen.

*Students that have chosen these options might not be allowed to cook in the kitchen. They may have to order meals from restaurants, etc.



Things students need to bring

Toiletries, personal items to make student's room feel like home, prescription medication and any other personal important items.



Meals provided

Yes (depends on booking type, please refer to the table at the top of the page).

Meals are usually eaten with the family unless otherwise arranged and special diets such as vegetarian, halal and other requirements can be catered for at an additional cost. Please tell us if you have a special requirement when you request your accommodation.

Breakfast: Breakfast is usually a light meal consisting of cereal, bread, spreadables, fruit juice, tea or coffee. Hosts will usually ask you to prepare your own breakfast.

Lunch: You will be responsible for buying your own lunch from a local restaurant or shop.

Dinner: If you book Half Board, you will usually eat dinner with your host, or occasionally you may prepare your own meal with food supplied by your host. Please expect your host to set the dinner time and let them know if you are unable to arrive on time.



Services included

Bed linen, towels, telephone use for emergencies. Students need to make sure to discuss laundry with their host family after they arrive as laundry facilities will vary depending on the individual homestay.

If students on Half Board basis want to prepare their own meals and use the kitchen, they can pay to upgrade their accommodation from homestay to residence. If students are on Bed and Breakfast, we can change their booking/homestay to Self Catering. Students can also ask the hosts directly if they can use the kitchen.



Will the homestay arrange to pick up the student from the airport?

No, however, you can book your airport transfer with your EP school. The transfer to the accommodation will then be organised accordingly.



Transport to school

Your host will show you how to use public transport to get to school on your first day.



Where are the host families located?

Homestays are situated within 30-60 minutes of the city centre in different areas of the city.

Studio Residence

Set close to the city centre. Just a stone's throw from a vibrant array of bars, shops, and restaurants, the residence is also conveniently within walking distance of English Path Birmingham.

Features and Facilities:

- Private studio bedrooms.
- Spacious, fully equipped and furnished
- Laundry facility on site.
- Wi-Fi.



Location: Birmingham City Centre



Travel time to EP Birmingham: 30 minutes



About the residence

Accommodation types: Shared student building with studios distributed through different floors. The building is mixed with students from other schools/universities.

- Private shower room and kitchenette.

Bedrooms: Each bedroom contains the following: bed, chair, desk, window, closet, private shower room, and kitchenette.

Bed size: Standard Double.

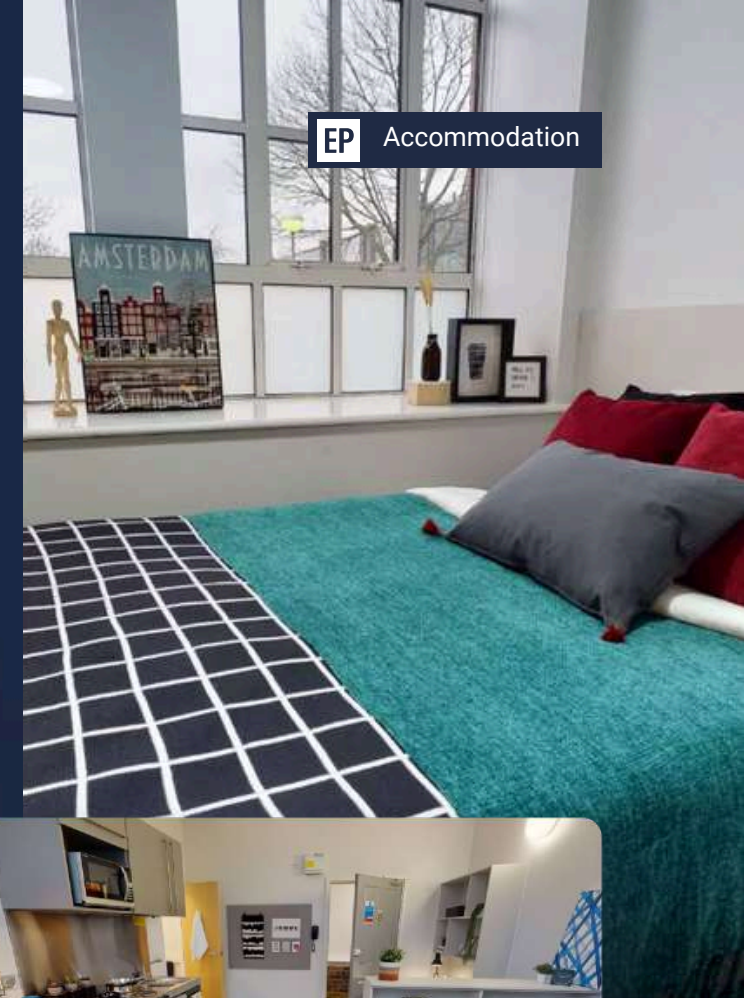
Bathroom: private shower room with toilet and sink.

Kitchen: The in-studio kitchenette includes the following amenities: a 2-in-1 fridge freezer, electric hob, sink, oven or a 3-in-1 microwave, grill and oven, and dining table with chair. The kitchen is private to the student. Cutlery, plates, and pans are included. For safety reasons, the use of candles, oil burners, chip pans, deep fat fryers, or any other potential fire hazards is strictly prohibited.

Facilities: Wi-Fi, all bills inclusive, on-site laundry room and free contents insurance. The residence will provide communal areas including social spaces.

Reception/ security desk: Reception staff are typically available Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; the security team is on duty 24 hours a day and at weekends.

Extra costs: Laundry room onsite:
Washing: Around £3.40 per load
Drying: Around £1.90 per load
Payment is made via the mobile app.



Visitors/guests: Visitors are allowed and can stay overnight for a maximum of 2 nights a week.

Neighbourhood: Close to a supermarket and other convenience stores.

Noise: Residents are expected to respect one another and keep noise levels to a minimum to avoid disturbing others. Quiet hours, as per Birmingham City Council regulations, are:

- Monday to Friday: 6 PM – 8 AM
- Saturday: 1 PM – 8 AM
- Sunday & Public Holidays: No loud noise disturbances allowed.

Smoking: No smoking allowed anywhere in the residence.

Cleaning service: A cleaning service is provided in the common areas outside the flats. Students are responsible for keeping their studios clean. Bedding changes are not included.

Minimum stay: 1 week minimum stay. Bookings from Saturday to Saturday or Sunday to Sunday.

Check-in/check-out: Check in after 4PM / Check out 10AM.

Accommodation location: 15–30 minutes to both English Path and Birmingham city centre.



Ensuite Residence

Set close to the city centre. Not only just a stone's throw from a vibrant array of bars, shops, and restaurants, but also conveniently within walking distance of English Path Birmingham.

Features and Facilities:

- Private bedrooms.
- Spacious, fully equipped and furnished.
- Laundry facility on site.
- Community and shared kitchen facilities.
- Wi-Fi.
- Cleaning of kitchen not included.

 **Location:** Birmingham City Centre

 **Travel time to EP Birmingham:** 30 minutes

About the residence

Accommodation types: Shared student flats in building mixed with students from other schools/universities.

- Shared kitchen, private shower room.

Bedrooms: The bedroom contains the following: bed, pillow, bedding, chair, desk, window, closet and private shower room.

Bed size: Small Double.

Bathroom: private shower room with toilet and sink.

Kitchen: The shared kitchen includes the following amenities: a fridge, freezer, stove, oven, cutlery, plates, pans, microwave, dining table and chairs. For safety reasons, the use of candles, oil burners, chip pans, deep fat fryers, or any other potential fire hazards is strictly prohibited.

Facilities: Wi-Fi, all bills inclusive, on-site laundry room and free contents insurance. The residence will provide communal areas including social spaces.

Reception/ security desk: Reception staff are typically available Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; the security team is on duty 24 hours a day and at weekends.

Minimum weeks requests: 4 weeks minimum stay. Booking from Saturday to Saturday or Sunday to Sunday.

Extra cost facilities: Laundry costs will apply.

Neighbourhood: Close to a supermarket and other convenience stores.

Visitors/guests: You are welcome to have guests through the daytime, and an overnight guest for a reasonable amount of nights.

Noise: Residents are expected to respect one another and keep noise levels to a minimum to avoid disturbing others. Quiet hours, as per Birmingham City Council regulations, are:

- Monday to Friday: 6 PM – 8 AM
- Saturday: 1 PM – 8 AM
- Sunday & Public Holidays: No loud noise disturbances allowed.

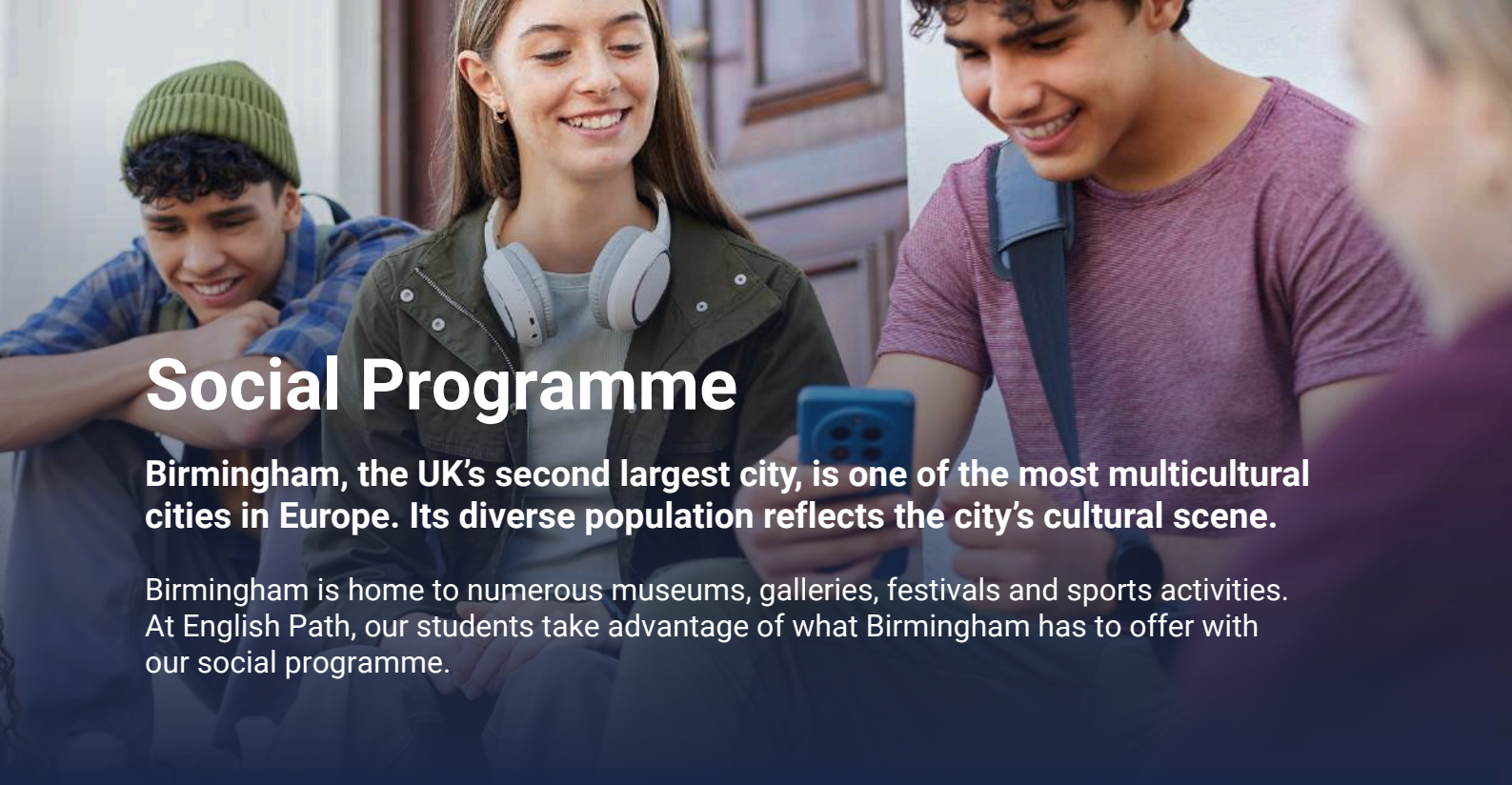
Smoking: No smoking allowed anywhere in the residence.

Cleaning service: A professional cleaning service is provided to communal areas every week, free of charge. Students are responsible for cleaning their own room and shared spaces such as the kitchen.

Check-in/check-out: Check in after 4PM / Check out 10AM.

Accommodation location: 15–30 minutes to both English Path and Birmingham city centre.





Social Programme

Birmingham, the UK's second largest city, is one of the most multicultural cities in Europe. Its diverse population reflects the city's cultural scene.

Birmingham is home to numerous museums, galleries, festivals and sports activities. At English Path, our students take advantage of what Birmingham has to offer with our social programme.

Example timetable

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
City Centre Walking Tour	Games and Conversation	Bowling at LANE 7	Academic Lab	Botanical Gardens	Stratford upon-Avon
Escape Hunt Birmingham	IKON Gallery	Dinner at Damascena	Conversation Club	NQ64 Arcade	

Check our live social programmes here



Example of social activities

- Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: free
- Canal boat ride: £9.50
- Mini Golf: £10.90
- Escape room: £20
- Virtual Reality game: £20
- Botanical Gardens: £9.00
- Cadbury World: £21.00
- Aston Hall: £10
- Winterbourne House and Gardens: £8.85
- Everyman Luxury cinema: £12.85
- Custard factory: Free
- Watch a cricket game at Edgbaston Stadium: £15



Example of nearby cities to visit

- **Liverpool** Travel time: 1 hour 40 minutes
Price of return ticket: £37



- **Cardiff** Travel time: 2 hours
Price of return ticket: £46



Recommendations



Checklist & other useful information

Here are a few important items that you should bring with you:

- Passport
- Acceptance letter
- Accommodation letter
- Proof of health/medical insurance
- A bit of cash and credit/debit cards/Apple or Google Pay
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Adaptor for electrical appliances
- Prescription medication and medical records
- Emergency information
- Toiletries
- Notebook and pen
- Backpack for classes, social programme
- Reusable water bottle



Before you leave your country

Here are some important things you need to know to make your arrival as smooth as possible. Use our checklist to ensure you don't forget anything and are prepared for the exciting times ahead.



Pocket money

Recommend weekly budget: £150 - 200. This should cover expenses, laundry, local travel and activities. You will need additional money if you want to take weekend trips. Bring £50 with you in cash and a debit or credit card. You will need to check with your financial institution to make sure you will be able to withdraw money from a UK ATM. Do not bring foreign currency. It is not wise to carry around large amounts of cash.



Clothing

Most students dress casually for classes, but you should bring nice clothes for going out and sportswear for sports and outdoor activities. The climate is changeable and maybe different from your own. The typical temperature is 15-25°C in the summer and 1-10°C in the winter, although it can drop below freezing. Bring waterproof clothing.



Electrical current

Standard voltage in the UK is 230 volts; remember to bring an adaptor with you or buy one when you arrive.



School notifications

We encourage you to follow the school's Instagram account before you arrive and especially during your stay. This will give you an idea of what is happening at the school and help you connect with staff and students. This is also where we will post notification of any unexpected school closures: it is important you check our Instagram account for any messages while you are attending the school, especially if there is severe weather in the area (e.g. snowstorm, flood, etc.). If the school cannot open or school opening will be delayed, we will post a message as soon as possible (the night before or in the morning) to advise you of this, along with information on how to get further updates and any alternate scheduling (if applicable).

Follow EP! @englishpathschools





When you arrive in Birmingham

Arriving at the airport in a foreign country can be overwhelming. To better prepare yourself, make sure that you have read the information below about your arrival and how to get to your accommodation. If you get lost or confused upon arrival, don't be afraid to ask the airport staff for help as they will be happy to give assistance.

EP Transfers

The closest airport to EP Birmingham is Birmingham Airport. We request that you book your flights according to the starting date of your specific program. You must arrive on the Saturday or Sunday prior to your course start date.

If you have booked a transfer service, a driver will meet you outside the customs area and drive you to your accommodation. Please ensure you arrange and pay the transfer fee in advance.

Transfer service emergency contact details

If you have any flight changes, miss a connecting flight or need help meeting the transfer service, you should call the emergency number below. Please be prepared to tell them your name, school name (English Path) and location. Students should only accept a transfer from a greeter with the official English Path signage.

Transfer service emergency number:

+ 44 749 400 2815

Independent transfers

Taxi cost: £25 – £35

Journey time: 30 minutes depending on location of accommodation.

Living costs

(Sample prices for items in this city)

Bottle of water:	£1.10
Coffee:	£3
Can of coke:	£1.50
Meal out for two:	£40
Takeaway pizza:	£8
Sandwich:	£5
Local bus ticket (daysaver):	£5.50
Bike rental:	£5 a day
Brompton Bike Hire	
Cinema ticket:	£10

Local Customs

All people treat one another with dignity and respect. British people are very empathetic, often consider the feelings of others, and are willing to listen to those with different views and opinions. Women in the UK are equal to men and should always be treated fairly.

British people sometimes talk to strangers in public areas. This is a great way to practice English, but caution should be taken. You should not give out your address and telephone number or accept inappropriate invitations.

“Please” and “thank you” are very important words! Always use them if you ask someone to do something for you, or if they help you or give you information.

The UK is a culturally diverse nation where people of all ethnic backgrounds are treated equally. All individuals should challenge any prejudice they witness (prejudice is the negative opinion or feelings towards something or someone without reason).

People in the UK leave a tip for good service in restaurants, hair salons and other places. The tip rate at most restaurants is about 10–15% of the bill and is sometimes included. Fast food is not tipped unless it is delivered. Porters in stations, airports and hotels should be tipped approximately £2 per bag. Taxi drivers are generally given a 15% tip.

No one is above the law, which is put in place to protect everyone. Students should be aware of their legal rights and responsibilities. All individuals hold freedom of choice (within the law).

Health and safety

Medical insurance: If you are studying in the UK for less than 6 months, you should take out private health insurance before coming to the UK.

Students are advised to register with a GP during their stay in the UK in order to be able to access prompt healthcare. You can find your nearest GP here:
<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp>

If you need to see a doctor immediately, you may go to a walk-in centre. You can find your nearest walk-in centre here:
clch.nhs.uk/services/walk-in-centres

If you get sick: If you get sick while in the UK you should visit a GP. If you have a minor illness, you can ask staff at a local pharmacist for advice. Remember to bring any relevant insurance or medical documentation with you.

Protecting your belongings: We strongly recommend you take out insurance for your personal belongings, especially cameras, music players, mobile phones and laptops. Personal items cannot be covered by English Path homestay or residence insurance.

Prescription medication: Remember to bring enough of your prescribed medication with you as UK pharmacists will not dispense a foreign prescription. International customs agents may ask you questions about your medication upon your departure or arrival, so be sure to pack it carefully. Bring any important medical records (blood type, prescriptions, x-rays) that might be useful for medical care abroad as well as contact information for your health care providers at home.

Staying safe at school: If you or another student has an accident or needs urgent medical attention, please come to the Student Services office where the First Aider is located.

Fire safety: If you discover a fire, press the fire alarm button on the nearest alarm. Leave the building immediately via the fire exit. If you hear the fire alarm, leave the building immediately. Do not run, use the lift or stop to collect your belongings. EP staff will guide you to the fire exit. Go to the assembly point. Follow any instructions given by a member of EP staff and do not go back into the building until you are told to do so by EP staff.

Personal safety and looking after valuables: Birmingham is generally a safe place but as with a lot of big cities, you should always be alert. Some tips are: Be alert when you are walking alone at night. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Do not leave your belongings unattended. In the UK, you do not need to always carry your identification card or passport with you. You can keep it at home and carry a picture of your ID on your phone or a photocopy in your bag.



Medical costs

Medical costs in the UK vary depending on where you are from, and the treatment needed. We recommend that you check your cover on the NHS website or at <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/visiting-or-moving-to-england/>



Laws

Smoking is banned in all public buildings in Britain including bars, restaurants, shops, stations, cinemas, and all public transport. You can smoke on the street. No one under the age of 18 in the UK may buy or consume tobacco or alcohol, including beer and wine. If you are under 18, it's against the law for someone to sell you alcohol, to buy or try to buy alcohol, and for an adult to try to buy alcohol for you.

For drivers, you must drive on the left hand side, observe all speed limits and signs, give way to emergency vehicles, obey all directions given by police, stop at red traffic lights, and must wear a seatbelt.

Driving under the influence of alcohol is a very serious crime and police make regular random checks.

You will need international ID to enter bars, clubs or pubs (e.g. Passport, ID card, driving license).

Buying, selling and using drugs is illegal.



Student code of conduct

You must attend all classes. If you do not attend your classes your representative will be informed. If you do not then improve your attendance you may not be able to continue your course. 85% attendance is needed to be able to receive a certificate of completion.

Be on time for all your lessons.

Always tell English Path if you are going to be absent from school for any reason and tell your host family if you are going away overnight.

If you commit a criminal offence or have to be severely disciplined you will be sent home. We will also inform the immigration authorities.

Be respectful, polite and open to different cultures.



Open bank account

Main banks in the UK are HSBC, Barclays, Natwest, Nationwide and Santander. To open a bank account, the following documents may be needed:

- Passport or EU ID
- A valid visa
- A school letter

You can get the school letter from Student Services to take to the bank. For online banks, you may open your account online without the school letter from us.



Places of worship

Baptist

Birmingham Central Baptist Church
Springhill, 35 Ellen St, Birmingham B18 7LF

Buddhist

Peace Pagoda Birmingham
29/31 Osler St, Birmingham B16 9EU

Church of England

Church of England 1 Colmore Row,
Birmingham B3 2BJ

Hindu

Shree Geeta Bhawan 107-117 Heathfield Rd,
Handsworth, Birmingham B19 1HL

Jewish

Singers Hill Synagogue 44 Blucher St,
Birmingham B1 1HL

Methodist

Lozells Methodist Church 163 Gerrard St,
Lozells, Birmingham B19 2AH

Muslim

Birmingham Central Mosque 180 Belgrave
Middleway, Birmingham B12 0XS

Roman Catholic

St Catherine of Siena Church 69 Irving St,
Birmingham B1 1DW



Emergency services

Call 999 in case of fire, a medical emergency or if you need the police.

Further education advice

• IELTS - English Path

The IELTS Preparation course is for students who want to take the IELTS Academic Exam. This course is designed to prepare students at Intermediate levels and above for the IELTS Exam. It aims to develop your English skills and improve your exam technique.

• Cambridge Exam preparation

The Cambridge English exams are offered at the B2 First and C1 Advanced levels. They are internationally recognised qualifications which demonstrates your level of English to function at a high level in almost every English-speaking context, both professionally and academically.

• Further study in the UK

If you are looking to attend university or study in the UK, you can ask the Student Services or Academic Team for advice. We are here to provide advice and options on further study or higher education. Our partner school GBS also offers a range of further and higher education courses.

Study tips



Study skills

Study skills are how we can organise and improve our learning. For example, what do we do when we learn a new word? Do we make notes? How? It's very important that we are organised in the way we learn, so that we have a much better chance of remembering the language and can use it correctly in the future. We would like to teach you some ways to keep learning and improving your English skills. If you practice these Study Skills, it will help you to continue your English language learning wherever you are.

- **Using a dictionary**

Dictionaries are a useful resource for researching different meanings, collocations, examples of use and standard pronunciation. Use a mono-lingual dictionary and focus on understanding the meaning rather than the translation of individual words. Translating individual words can often lead to misunderstandings. A great big paper mono-lingual dictionary is best but Cambridge, for example, has an advanced learners' dictionary at www.dictionary.cambridge.org, which is easy to use and provides examples of word use.

- **Learning vocabulary**

When you record vocabulary, you should also include longer phrases like phrasal verbs (e.g. get away with), multi-word expressions (e.g. How's it going?), idioms (e.g. raining cats and dogs), and collocations (e.g. take a chance). Please see the language bank, irregular verbs and phonemic chart in appendix 1 and 2.

- **Tracking your progress**

As well as placement, weekly and monthly testing, there will be a group tutorial twice every 10-week cycle where you can reflect on your learning and set some goals with the support of your teacher.

- **Useful links:**
 - bbclearningenglish.com
 - englishclub.com
 - lyricstraining.comted.com
 - voscreen.com



Learning resources

- **Listening - What to listen to?**

Try to listen to as many different types of spoken English as possible, to improve your listening. You can find lots on the internet:

- Music and songs
- TV shows, the news and films
- Speeches and interviews
- Audiobooks

- **Writing - What to write?**

Getting the new language you've learnt on paper can really help to consolidate your learning. Think about the language you've learnt that week and try the following:

- Write an email to a friend/teacher
- Write a diary/journal
- Write a shopping list

- **Reading - What to read?**

There's so much you can read to practice your skills; it doesn't have to be a book. You can read signs, newspapers, or even the back of food packets!

- Find an interesting article online
- Choose a book you've read in your own language and get reading!
- Find an e-book and read it on your daily commute. This site has lots of free ones: gutenberg.org

- **Library and study srea**

We have a bright and welcoming Library and Study Centre available for students, which provides a fantastic opportunity to help you get more out of your studies.

There are open study areas for group work and quiet areas for focused self-study, as well as bookable study rooms. There are also a range of books and computers available for you to use and a Library Assistant will be available to help you find anything you need.



Birmingham airport transport

Arriving at the airport in a foreign country can be overwhelming. To better prepare yourself, make sure that you have read the information below about your arrival and how to get to your accommodation. If you get lost or confused upon arrival, don't be afraid to ask the airport staff for help as they will be happy to give assistance.

Birmingham Airport*

Mode	Line or Number	Cost	Duration
Bus	X1, X12	£3.00 – Single Ticket £5.50 – Unlimited day travel	40 minutes
Airport train	Birmingham International to Birmingham New Street	£5.00 – Single Ticket	10 minutes

- If you choose to book an airport transfer, your flight details should be sent to us 4 weeks in advance to ensure we will be able to provide you an airport transfer.
- A driver will meet you after you come through the customs area and drive you to your accommodation.

*Students under 18 years old must book homestay breakfast and dinner & return airport transfers



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