

AHC

HOW TO THRIVE

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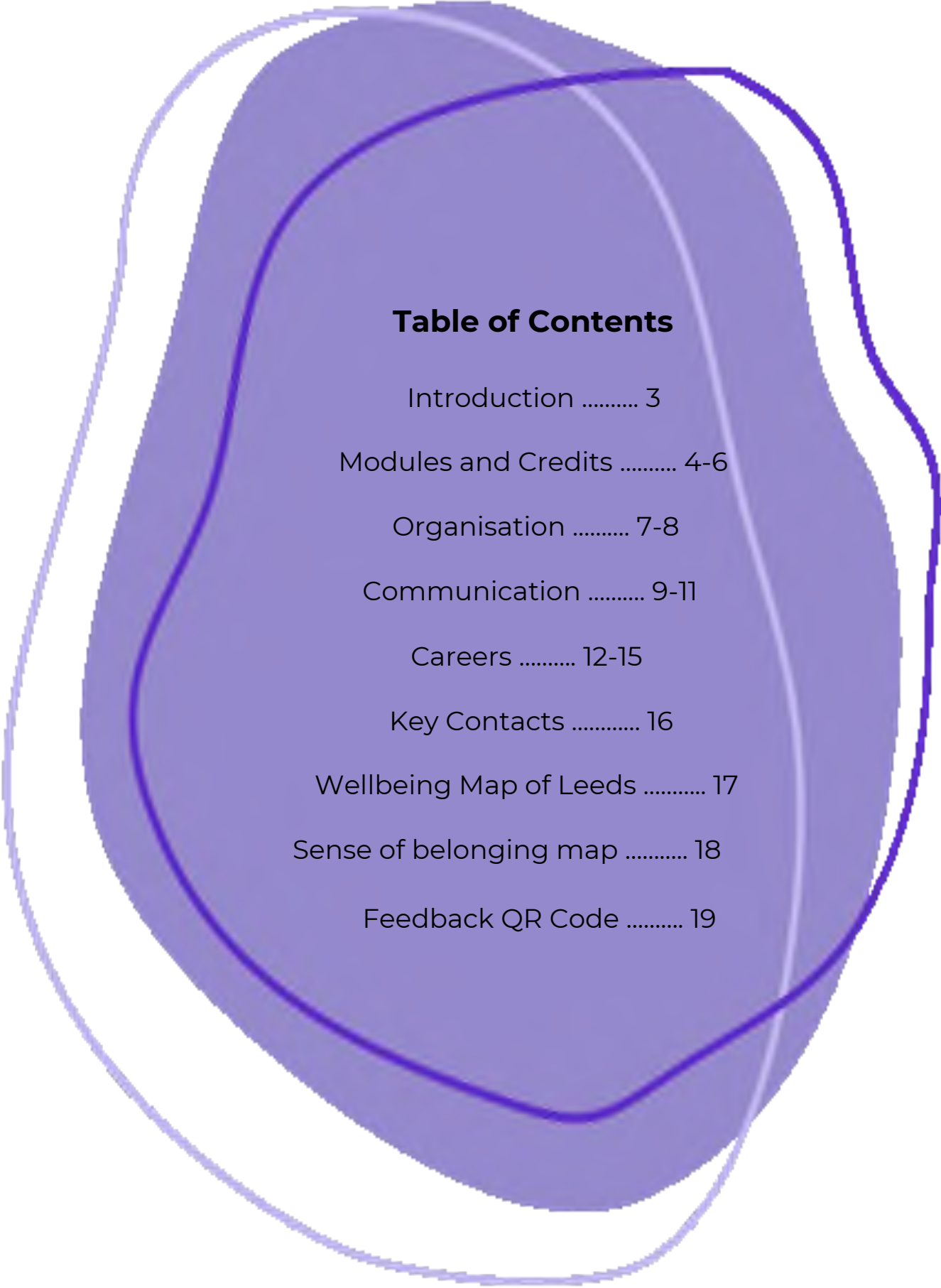


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How to Thrive as a Joint Honours Student

Hi, I'm Jo*, an English and Comparative Literature student and your AHC Guide on How to Thrive as a Joint Honours Student! With two humanities degrees rolled into one, a Joint Honours degree can seem daunting to tackle! The Faculty of AHC's amazing combo courses mean you can go after two exciting, different subjects at once - and while the content may seem overwhelming at first, it's a unique degree style that opens a whole new world of possibilities. So, without further ado, I'll show you how a Joint Honours really is the best of both worlds and how to make the most of this!



³ *This guide was updated in June 2026 by Siqi Huang, Communications Intern, Curriculum Redefined | Student Education and Experience

Modules, Credits and All That Jazz...

Your Course Catalogue is Your Best Friend...

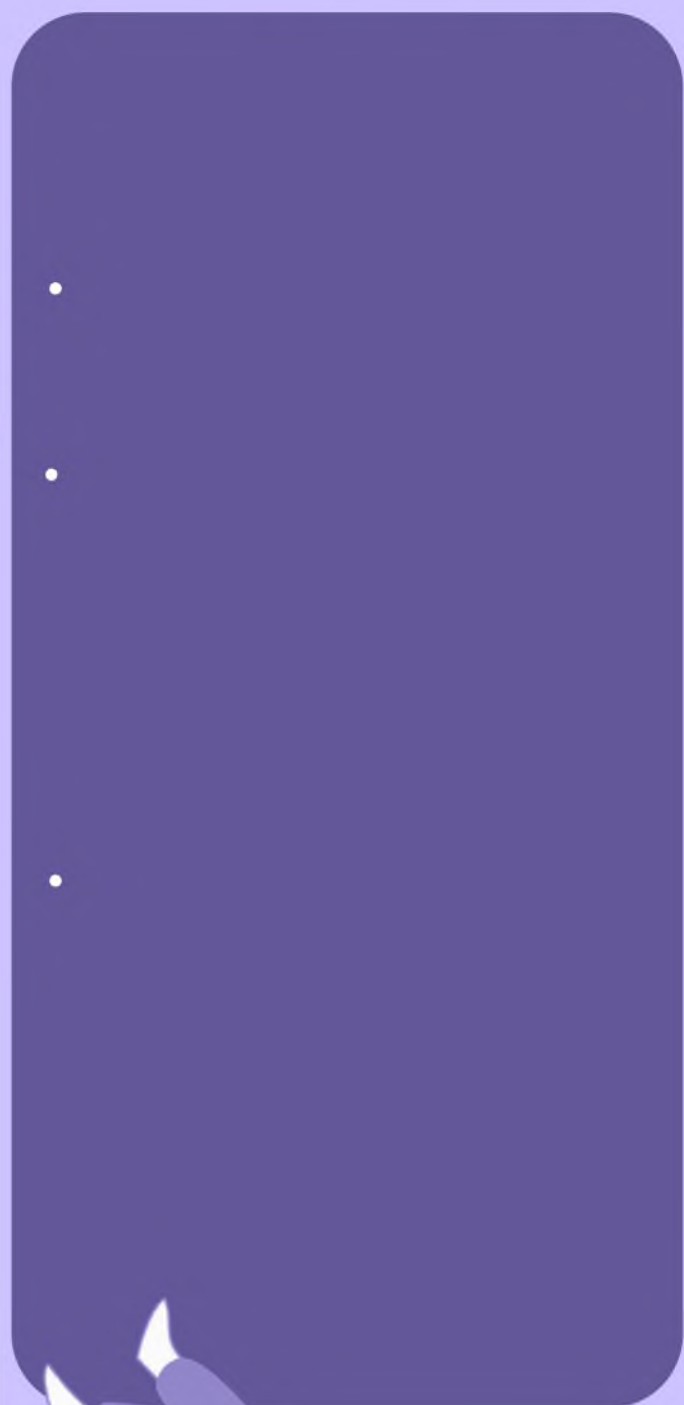
- Your Course Catalogue will tell you exactly how your credits are split, and which modules are compulsory vs free choice. You will also see the relevant info on module timetables, and whether they're in Semester 1 or 2. You'll need a balance of modules across both semesters, so the workload isn't too intense.
- Although it seems a lot, don't skim over the catalogue! Understanding your module choices will be super helpful when it comes to the rush of module enrolment.
- You can find your course catalogue on the course catalogue finder:

[https://webprod3.leeds.ac.uk/catalogue/modulesearch.asp?T=S&L=UG -](https://webprod3.leeds.ac.uk/catalogue/modulesearch.asp?T=S&L=UG-)

Find What Fits Best...

- To make sure you're studying both subjects fairly, a minimum number of credits will be split evenly between your two schools.
- Other than that, you may have some flexibility with your remaining credits, so follow your interests and have fun exploring! If you prefer one subject over the other, why not go down this path?
- Discovery modules are also on the cards, which can open even more doors for new subjects!
- Make this degree yours and do what you love.





TESTIMONIALS

Grace, Final Year English and Comparative Literature, says: **“Being joint honours will mean you have a certain amount of credits you have to complete within both schools (...) Be wise in choosing the balance between the winter and summer terms and also consider if you want one term more heavily weighted with one school’s modules”.**

Emma, Final Year Asia Pacific Studies and International Relations, says: **“don’t worry about getting an even credit split on both sides, focus on the side of your course you enjoy more. This will help you engage more and positively impact your overall grade (...) adjust your degree to your preference”.**

Jacob Blakesley, English and Comparative Literature Programme Manager, says: **“Try to bear this in mind from the beginning of your studies, namely that your final year project will emerge from the interests and passions you have cultivated inside (and outside) the classroom”.**

Elliot, Final Year English and Spanish, says: **“One of the most enjoyable aspects of my degree is when I can combine my two subjects. I certainly feel that my essay skills obtained from studying English have enabled me to get higher grades in Spanish and recently my study of Don Quixote in English was enhanced by my knowledge of Spanish.”**

Organisation, Organisation, Organisation (Third Time's a Charm!)

Uni is fast-paced, and a Joint Honours can sometimes mean a lot of academic and admin bits- and-bobs to wrap your head around – but these **three key tips** will help you breeze through it!



Know How Both Systems Work...

Both of your schools may use different referencing systems (e.g., Leeds Harvard and MHRA), different formatting (cover pages or headers) and different writing styles (check if using the first-person is ok!). It can be a bit confusing when you start your first assignments, so use **Minerva (Assessment Guidelines)** will typically be posted for each module) to make sure how to style your work. You can ask your tutors too to double-check, but make sure you know **how to reference, format, and write appropriately** for each subject/school.

You can find the different referencing styles for your School on the library website:

https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1402/referencing/49/find_your_schools_referencing_style

Planning, Your Way...

You'll need to figure out a way to keep your two subjects clearly separated and organised so you can stay on top of them.

Having **different coloured folders or notebooks** for different subjects can be helpful, for example. Online organisation tools such as **Notion** are also very popular: you can customise your page and make separate folders, tabs, and tables for each subject. Make sure to find a calendar system that works for you too, to keep track of when different assignments are due. Joint Honours mean some assignments overlap, so you need to keep an eye on this from early on!

There's loads of info on academic skills and planning on the Leeds website, as well as online and in-person workshops offered with

Skills@Library:

https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1401/academic_skills

Who's Who and Where's Where...

- Find out who your parent school is as soon as possible. This will help you when it comes to knowing who to email, as your parent school will manage your personal tutor and any technical questions you have (unless your questions relate directly to your other school).
- Also, familiarise yourself with campus. Joint Honours means your lectures and seminars can be all over, so you need to know how to get from A to B on a busy day. It may seem obvious but knowing a few cheeky short cuts on the way to class can save a lot of wasted energy!
- There's a little interactive campus map on the Leeds website:
<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/campusmap>

TESTIMONIALS

Raquel, 2nd Year English and Comparative Literature, says

“I used the platform Notion to organise the notes and essay deadlines for my modules (...) I think the best feature was adding the uni deadlines table at the bottom, which enabled me to create a plan for each individual essay, as well as tick them off when they were done!”

Olivia, 3rd Year French and English, recommends finding study spaces for each respective school, e.g. the School of English's common room or the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies' Language Zone. Although these are open for all, you're more likely to find your community of students here and feel more connected to your course!

Communication is Key

Especially with a Joint Honours, where you have an even bigger pool of academics and students to meet and network with, communication and getting out there is invaluable to your experience. Here's how to navigate your Leeds social life within a dual degree!



Use Those Office Hours!

- This is one of the most helpful tips for any student – use your teachers' office hours! Professors, module leaders and seminar tutors will all hold dedicated office hours where you can drop in and ask for advice. **Don't be scared to go – they're designed to help you and give you personalised feedback.**
- It is particularly useful to go for feedback on your assignments or exams in both of your schools – then you can learn more about **what kind of work is expected of you in each school**, and how to strengthen your academic voice overall. If you're confused or struggling with your studies, office hours are guaranteed to pick you up and send you out on the right foot!
- In addition to your office hours, it's really helpful to know who to contact for a variety of concerns. There's a super useful collection of contact details on the Leeds website:
<https://students.leeds.ac.uk/contacts/>

Put Yourself Out There...

- Belonging to two different courses or schools doesn't have to make you feel out of place – **it expands the range of people you can meet** and new worlds you can be part of. **Join societies and socials for both of your subjects!** This way, you'll feel connected to both sides of your degree and increase your pool of friends.
- Leeds offers countless societies to join, and in addition to specific subject societies, there are so many around your subject area. Don't shy away from these because you feel you don't 'fully belong' to one school – **get out there and meet people!** You'll soon realise there are so many unique degrees out there and everyone has a different story.



TESTIMONIALS

Cameron, Spanish and Italian, says :

“The teaching staff are so willing to help you with any questions or difficulties we may have. The breadth of resources available (...) is inexhaustible.”

Grace, Final Year English and Comparative Literature, says:

“Make an effort with your course mates!

While you will definitely meet lots of people from both schools, (...) having friends that are studying under the exact same degree will make it so much nicer to have people to ask questions to/discuss assessments/do admin things like module enrolment with.

Things differ a lot between schools so having someone who is specifically joint honours will make these processes a lot less daunting.”

The Real World Stuff (Careers and Opportunities)

It can be useful to think about the steps after uni and working on your CV where you can. Having skills learnt through work will help you stand out even more after uni – especially as you already have so many transferable skills from a Joint Honours!

Course Reps and Peer mentors...

Throughout your studies, there will be chances to become a **Course Representative and peer mentor**, including for your Joint Honours course. A Course Rep gathers feedback on the course from fellow students and works with staff to report this and work on improving the course overall. A peer mentor provides advice to help 1st year students navigate university life.

This can be a really helpful way to get involved in your course more, as you will **communicate with students on both sides of your degree**. It's essentially a way to dip your toes in both sides of the pond and also help enhance your course where you and your peers see fit. This can be an amazing opportunity for Joint Honours students.

It's also a great chance to build on your employability skills and CV, as you will improve your communication and teamwork.

All Things AHC...

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures has some super useful emails and newsletters and Insta accounts to keep up with: [AHC Enhancement](#), [AHC Wellbeing](#) and [AHC Employability](#). They work to offer incredible volunteering, internship, and work experience to all students within this faculty so it's really worth keeping up to date with them. Mycareer is a website full of events and opportunities for Leeds students. • There're so many fantastic experiences out there that Joint Honours students are perfect for. You have a unique skills profile of **versatile skills**, from juggling 2 different disciplines and research styles.

Keep an eye out on what's out there!

- Register for email updates:
<https://mycareer.leeds.ac.uk/unauth>
- Contact AHC Employability for advice and further info here:
ahc-employability@leeds.ac.uk

Q-Step Internship:

One of the programmes offered to AHC Joint Honours students is the Q-Step Internship, a 4-week paid scheme teaching data analysis skills.

Andrea Denny, Q Step Project Manager, says it is an *"opportunity for penultimate year (students) to develop a wide range of data literacy, research and their professional skills in a bite sized package (...) in relation to Joint Honours students, many students who participate in the Q Step placement scheme have no experience of quants through their programmes and JH students can often have fewer optional module choices through which they can gain data literacy skills (...) So, the Q Step placements are a great extra-curricular opportunity to gain key data literacy skills which will be relevant and beneficial"*

The “real world” stuff

Snoop Around on LinkedIn ...

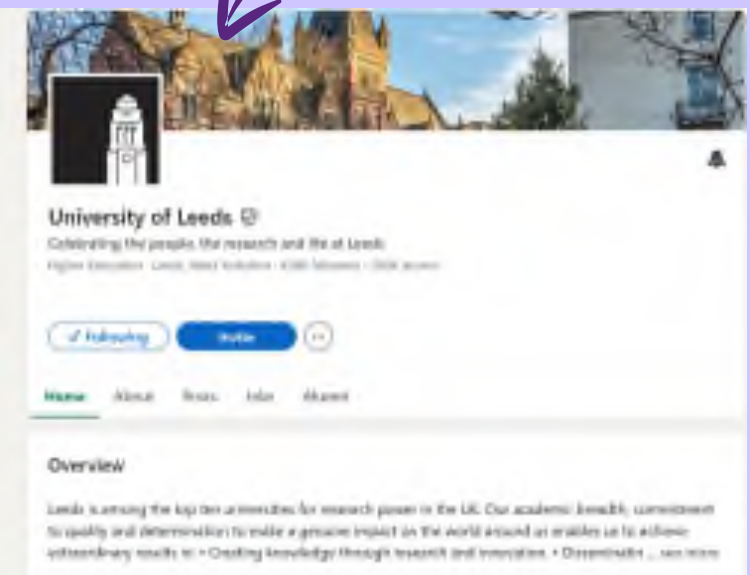
Firstly, make a LinkedIn profile! This is so useful to build your network throughout uni and help you with career progress.

Secondly, this is a top tip I learnt from a Careers Advisor a while ago - on the University of Leeds's LinkedIn page there is an '**alumni**' section, where you can see students who have graduated. If you use the Search bar to look for your specific Joint Honours course, you can see who studied the same Joint Honours as you, and what they are doing for work now. It can be a super helpful insight into what kind of career paths are available to you and what kind of experience you need! You can also reach out via LinkedIn Messaging and ask for their advice.

Your Facilities...

Doing a Joint Honours with AHC gives you access to some pretty great facilities. One of the best is the **Language Zone**, a space with mountains of free resources for learning new languages from across the globe. You don't even need to be studying a language with your degree to access this! There are volunteer-led language groups where you can practice your speaking as well as specialist translation software. This can really enhance your degree by giving you a new perspective as well as skills that will make you stand out in a **global job market!**

You also have access to other amazing facilities which can expand your worldview, such as the **Centre for World Literatures**, which helps with research on global literature. Alongside language studies, this can really enrich your understanding of your subject to include new cultures and outlooks.



The World is Your Oyster...

- I would really recommend Summer Schools or Year Abroad opportunities for Joint Honours. The chance to study somewhere completely different can be life-changing and students often say it is the best part of their degree. You have a wide range of options belonging to 2 different subjects, so the world really is your oyster – there are over 300 potential universities to choose from!
- It's also the chance to take on completely new modules and expand your knowledge, especially learning about a new culture. It's the perfect way to enrich your interdisciplinary degree and an experience that makes you stand out from the crowd. Moving to and living in an entirely new country makes you resilient, confident, and independent - highly desirable skills. There's also the chance to learn a new language or strengthen your fluency if you're a language student. Immersion truly is the best way to learn, so throw yourself into this!
- Find out more about Study Abroad here: <https://www.leeds.ac.uk/undergraduate-student-opportunities/doc/enrichment-study-abroad>. Under 'Organisations' on Minerva, you can also view the Study Abroad page.



TESTIMONIALS



Grace, Final Year English and Comparative Literature, says – **“I did a Q Step Internship that was offered specifically to AHC students alongside FSS and LUBS. It was a super useful and unique opportunity where I was given a crash course on the basics of data analysis and then paid to work as a data analysis intern with the uni! I think those kinds of opportunities are super valuable and wouldn’t have otherwise been available to me as a humanities student!”**

Andrea, MA Professional Language and Intercultural Studies, says – **“The Language Zone has amazing resources and spaces that people don’t often know about, from a common quiet place to study, to seminar rooms that are often free in exam season where you can work at your own pace. I wish more people could explore this part of campus and participate in the Language groups as it is a great place to make new friends who are probably in the same situation as you in terms of learning.”**

Joanne, 2nd Year English and Comparative Literature, says – **“At the end of my 1st year, I did a Summer School in South Korea studying East Asian Fiction. It was the perfect overlap between my two subjects, which allowed me to employ what I had learnt from my course so far. It was also just an incredible experience that taught me so much and increased my confidence tenfold. I was able to receive funding with the Turing Scheme as well, which made it all possible, so don’t be afraid to reach out and ask if you can get support too – the uni is there to help you grasp these opportunities.”**



William, International Relations and Thai, says – **“A year abroad is definitely the most fun anyone will ever have whilst at uni, and all my friends from other subjects are very jealous of me! The small number of people on my course means that we are all really close, with the teachers too.”**

Your Key Contacts and Useful Links

Not sure where to turn – I've got your back with these helpful contacts!



Go to this link to find the contact information for your parent school:
<https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/arts-humanities-cultures/doc/contact-us-8>

AHC Employability, Placements and Study Abroad:
<https://linktr.ee/AHCEmployability>

AHC Enhancement: https://linktr.ee/ahc_enhancement

AHC Wellbeing Project: <https://linktr.ee/leedsahcwellbeing>

Find Your Course Catalogue:
<https://webprod3.leeds.ac.uk/catalogue/modulesearch.asp?T=S&L=UG>

Referencing Guide:
https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1402/referencing/49/find_your_schools_referencing_style

Student Information Service: 0800 915 0402 or studentinfo@leeds.ac.uk

Skills@Library: 0113 343 4096 or skills@library.leeds.ac.uk

Mycareer: <https://mycareer.leeds.ac.uk>

Language Zone: 0800 915 0402 or languagezone@leeds.ac.uk

Global Opportunities Team: 0800 915 0402 or
outgoingstudyabroad@leeds.ac.uk

The Edge Sports Centre: <https://sport.leeds.ac.uk/the-edge/>

Safety Advice: <https://students.leeds.ac.uk/safety-security/doc/safety-advice>

WELLBEING MAP OF LEEDS

Coffee on the Crescent



Beckett park

Cinema
Cottage Road

FIKA North



Burley Park
Green spaces

Coffee spots

The Union Coffee shop

Wholesome activities

Laynes Coffee shop

Lovell Park

92 Degrees

Support local
businesses at corn
exchange

Walk by the canal

Campus Sense of Belonging and Safety Map

CAMPUS FACILITIES



LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION

LUU (Leeds University Union) is a vibrant, inclusive, and a safe space for relaxation and social connection. We have 350+ societies in the union. This is one of the best places for students who want to make new friends and socialise.



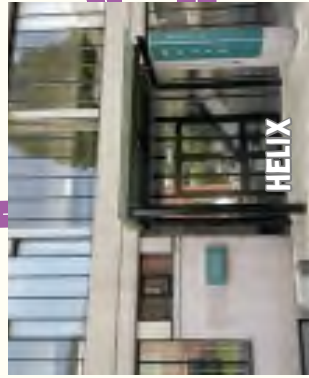
PARKINSON BUILDING

The Parkinson Building is a grade II listed Art Deco building and campanile. It is our main University building and features on our logo. Housed in the Parkinson Building are the University's two unique Galleries. Language Zone is on the 1st floor. It is also a dedicated student study space and event venue.



LAIDLAW LIBRARY

We have 4 libraries on campus. There is a cafe in each library. You can study with your friends in the group booths/ rooms.



HELIX

HELIX is the University's new learning innovation hub for students, staff and the local community. As the culmination of years of planning around investment to enhance student education at the University of Leeds, it offers cutting-edge digital provision including immersive technologies and cutting-edge multimedia production studios, as well as a physical maker space.

HELIX is also a multi-purpose space for events and conferences, networking and public engagement with the wider community.



SPORTS



THE EDGE SPORTS CENTRE

The Edge is the University of Leeds' on-campus sport and fitness centre. It includes a 250-station gym with the latest Technogym equipment, dedicated spin studio, 25m swimming pool and three exercise studios. It also has two squash courts, a climbing wall and two sports halls. Unfamiliar with the Edge? That's fine, you can always walk to the reception and the staff is happy to give you a tour and answer questions.



ACADEMIC SCHOOLS



Academic schools are places of belonging due to familiarity, peer connections, and supportive staff. You will meet peers from your school and study a few modules here. You can meet your academic personal tutor, link tutor and peers in your parent and co-teaching schools.



HELIX

Staying Safe

- Use well-lit busy streets when walking at night.
- Download the SafeZone app so you can get support on campus from the [University Security Service](#) quickly if you need it – they are available **24** hours a day.
- Stay vigilant when using your mobile phone, and keep valuable items hidden, especially at night.

ACCOMMODATION



CHARLES MORRIS HALL

Living in University accommodation is a great way to experience student life, make new friends and feel part of our student community. There are loads of social programme exclusively for students living in university halls. These activities include trips across Yorkshire, arts and crafts community conservation days, and exam wellbeing sessions.



LECTURE THEATRE



ROGER STEVENS BUILDING

The Roger Stevens Building houses 25 lecture theatres ranging from 90 to 310 in capacity. Most students will have a lecture in here at some point during their university life.



Got Feedback?

Let Us Know How We Can Improve Our Guides For You!

<https://forms.office.com/e/n5KuG8w5t5>

