



National Indian Students and Alumni Union (UK)



# Student Pack

[www.nisau.org.uk](http://www.nisau.org.uk)

Guide for Indian Students in the UK.

Hello,

Congratulations on embarking on your journey in the UK! We anticipate it will be a fantastic experience, and we can't wait to see what you make of it.

While many Indian students have studied in the UK over the centuries, it was only in 2012 that our founder initiated the creation of the National Union of Indian Students, the first of its kind outside India. We are multi-award winning, and our work has been recognised by various international including most recently with us winning the 'Best Student Support' award and our Chairperson Sanam Arora picking up the 'Outstanding Contribution to the Industry' award at the prestigious PIEoneer International Higher Education awards. We also came up highly commended for 'Association of the Year'.

Our mission is to ensure proper national and international representation for our community and to care for Indian students' welfare. We want you to know that we are your home away from home. No matter the issue, feel free to contact us if you ever find yourself in need or just want a friendly ear or advice.

Know that all our services are free, and we will never charge you for anything. Our work is made possible by dozens of volunteers, all of whom are students or alumni themselves. You can also join the team; simply email us if you'd like to.

We offer an active events portfolio and take pride in organising the finest India-centric events in the UK that help students and the broader community engage with contemporary India. We regularly host thought leaders from various walks of life, so be sure to take advantage of this, whether virtually or on your campus.

Finally, we have a network of Indian societies at most universities with sizeable Indian student populations. Join your university's India society to stay connected to India while at uni and make friends. Also, consider widening your horizons and making friends from diverse backgrounds. If your university doesn't have an India Society and you'd like to start one, please let us know, and we'll assist you in getting it started.

From playing a critical role in saving the Graduate route route to lobbying the government for more than 7 years to bring to the UK in the first place, our work can benefit not just Indians but all international students and the whole higher education sector. Stay in touch with us as we work to ensure your voice is heard at the highest levels.

In the meantime, please go through this student pack we have prepared to assist you on your journey to and in the UK.

With our best wishes,  
Team NISAU

We know that preparing to study abroad can be stressful. Our guide helps you with all the required information to make your journey to the UK as simple as possible.

Follow our checklist for essential information on pre-travel tasks and arrival expectations.

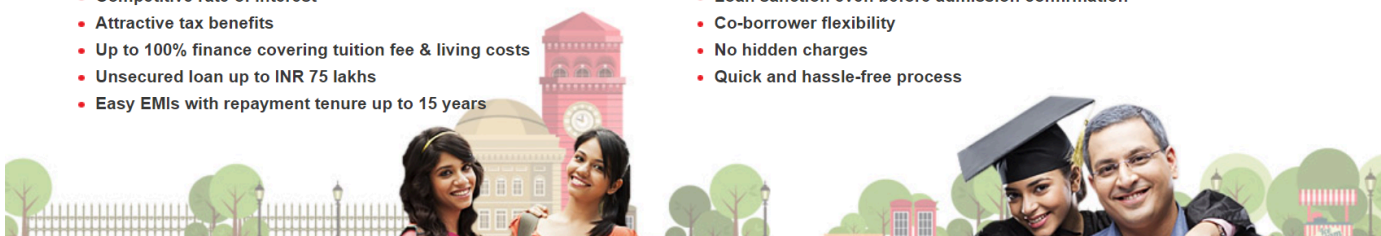
## PRE-ARRIVAL

### STUDENT LOANS

A customised education loan from HDFC Credila offers:



- Ease of application: online & doorstep service
- Competitive rate of interest
- Attractive tax benefits
- Up to 100% finance covering tuition fee & living costs
- Unsecured loan up to INR 75 lakhs
- Easy EMIs with repayment tenure up to 15 years
- No margin money
- Loan sanction even before admission confirmation
- Co-borrower flexibility
- No hidden charges
- Quick and hassle-free process



Education  
Loan over  
Self  
Finance?

- ① Smart financial planning
- ① Attractive tax benefits u/s 80E
- ① Repayment spread across long tenure
- ① Preserve savings
- ① TCS benefits for education loan customers
- ① Sense of responsibility for student

### OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

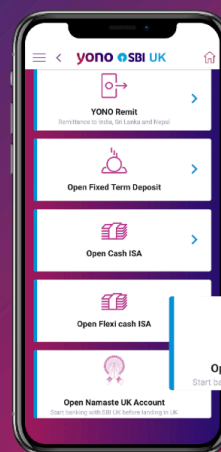
#### Namaste UK Account



#### Open a **Namaste UK** account before you leave India for the UK

Service for Indian citizens moving from India to the UK on a Long-term Visa.

- Must be opened using **yono SBI UK** app
- Free International Debit Card
- Service for Indian citizens migrating from India to the UK on a Long-term Visa
- Deposits up to £5,000 before arrival to the UK
- Unlimited Withdrawals and Deposits once in the UK and account activated
- No Tourist Visa



T&Cs apply

**\*\*Disclaimer:** NISAU takes no responsibility for any of the information provided above. Please direct all your queries to the service provider.

## ACCOMMODATION



**Safe home for every student**

**Experience the magic of a**  
**HASSLE-FREE**  
**STUDY ABROAD journey**

We help students across the globe find safe & secured accommodation near their university.



### BOOK YOUR PERFECT ACCOMMODATION



### Our Services



Here are some accommodation tips that you can keep in mind:

- Apply early for on-campus housing for convenience and safety.
- Choose a location with good transport links to your university. Proximity to supermarkets, GP, and recreational facilities is a plus.
- You can also opt for private student accommodation such as: with university living:
  - *Arrange your accommodation before you arrive in the UK.*
  - *Find the room of your choice*
  - *Prioritise your safety and location near the University*
  - *Get the guidance of the Support team through the whole process until you settle in.*



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## APPLY FOR A STUDENT VISA

Apply for a visa six months in advance.



For courses over six months, you can arrive in the UK up to one month before the start date. For courses under six months, you can arrive up to seven days before the course starts, as indicated in your CAS letter.

Before booking your flight, ensure you specify your travel date in your visa application. Once approved, you'll receive a letter and UK visa, permitting travel within days from the stated date.

## Last Minute Document Checklist

Below is a list of important documents we recommend you bring in your hand luggage while travelling to the UK.

- Passport with visa
- The letter that accompanied your visa
- Your University offer letter and/or UCAS confirmation slip
- Your University/University living accommodation confirmation email
- English language test certificates
- Originals (or certified true copies) of any degree certificates or technical qualifications
- Documentary evidence that you have enough money to pay your tuition fees and accommodate yourself while you're in the UK (recent bank statements, proof of scholarship or official financial sponsor letter)
- Any relevant medical certificates showing recent vaccinations
- Chest X-ray report for TB screening
- Medication for ongoing conditions and a doctor's letter
- Plane ticket
- Translations of documents as needed



## CASH & CARDS

In the UK, cards are widely accepted. Having a **Forex card** and some **GBP in cash** is recommended when you arrive.

Tip: Exchange currency from your nearest forex dealer and not at the airport to save money on fees, and also to receive better value for your Indian currency.



## POST-ARRIVAL



### Arrivals

After arriving in the UK, you will first go through **immigration control** where in addition to your passport and visa the following documents and items may be checked:

- Original transcripts and certificates
- Valuables, medicines (with prescription)
- Accommodation confirmation letter (if applicable)
- Medical certificates - TB and chest X-ray reports
- Original documentation and letters from the university
- Copy of bank statements, a sponsor's letter or bank draft
- CAS letter



.Please be aware you may be asked to show all or some of these documents.



To check what goods are banned or restricted:

<http://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/banned-and-restricted-goods>

### Sim Cards

Getting a UK number is advisable as it will facilitate tasks like opening a bank account. You can buy a SIM card easily at any general store or supermarket in town, at airports or railway stations.

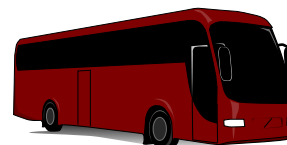


**Get a SIM** that offers cheap international calling, Vodafone, GiffGaff, Lebara, Lycamobile, etc are all trusted networks.

## TRAVELLING TO THE UNIVERSITY

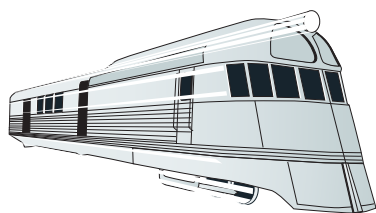
### Coach

The most economical way to reach your university is by coach, with coaches from main airports running frequently throughout the day. Tickets for these can be purchased at [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com), [www.megabus.com](http://www.megabus.com) or on the Omio App.



### Train

All airports have train stations which connect with major cities and tickets can be bought online at [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or the ticket office at the airport. Tickets will be comparatively more affordable if purchased online in advance.



### Taxi

Travelling by taxi is the most expensive option. You can pre-book on the app or call or get black cabs from the airport.



### Public Transport

In London, use Transport for London (TfL) at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) and consider the 18+ Student Oyster card (only valid in London).

Outside London, for intercity trains, consider the 16-25 Railcard at [www.16-25railcard.co.uk](http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk).



Note that all cities have their own transport systems; get acquainted with them. You can use apps like Citymapper and Google Maps, available for both iOS and Android.

### Groceries and Essentials

UberEats, JustEat, and Deliveroo in the UK are similar to Zomato and Swiggy. You can order groceries from Tesco, Sainsbury's, Lidl, Morrisons, Aldi, etc. You may also find Indian grocery stores in major cities.



## BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE PERMIT

- The Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) holds your biographical details (name, date and place of birth) and biometric information (facial image and fingerprints).
- It shows your immigration status and entitlements while in the UK.
- You will be able to collect your Biometric Residence Permit either from your university or the post office ([www.postoffice.co.uk](http://www.postoffice.co.uk) )
- When you go to collect your BRP you must carry your passport/travel document containing the vignette(visa sticker)
- From the end of December 2024, all BRPs will expire, and you will need to transition to an eVisa to reflect your immigration status and entitlements in the UK (Please refer to [www.gov.uk/get-access-evisa](http://www.gov.uk/get-access-evisa))

## REGISTER WITH A GP (Doctor)

- If you are living in university accommodation, registration with a doctor can be arranged through your hall of residence.
- You can also register with a GP by going to your nearest doctor's surgery (clinic).
- Your nearest surgery can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-GP>

## SETTLING IN

### Cultural Adjustments

- Be open to new experiences and be ready to adapt to cultural differences.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions or seek help when needed.



### Social Life

- Make an effort to meet people, both fellow international students and locals.
- Participate in events, join clubs, student societies and explore social opportunities.



### Academics

- Get familiar with the academic system, including coursework, exams, and grading.
- Utilise academic resources like libraries, study groups, and tutoring services.
- Please **DONOT** engage in plagiarism





## Daily Living Tips

- Cooking and Eating: Learn some basic cooking skills to save money and enjoy familiar Indian meals.
- The UK has a wide range of Indian grocery stores where you can find familiar ingredients like spices, lentils, rice, and fresh produce. Stores such as Tesco, Sainsbury's, and Asda often have dedicated sections for international foods, including Indian products.
- There are ample of Indian restaurants available in the UK such as:



**COLONEL SAAB**

*Experience a symphony of flavors at Colonel Saab.*

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USE THE **CODE CS10**  
TO RECEIVE A **10%\* DISCOUNT**  
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\*Terms & Conditions apply:  
OFFER VALID FOR PRE-BOOKINGS ONLY | PROMOTION ENDS ON 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024  
OFFER APPLICABLE FOR LUNCHES AND EARLY DINNERS.



\*Disclaimer: NISAU takes no responsibility for any of the content above. Some of the information is subject to change. Please direct all your queries to the service provider. For immigration advice, please consult a qualified solicitor.



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(For damaged Hair)

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📍 81 Headstone Gardens, London, United Kingdom

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## WORKING IN THE UK



As an international student on a student visa, you can do most kinds of work, but you will be subjected to strict working restrictions regarding the types of employment you can seek in the UK.

You must not:

- Be self-employed
  - Engage in business activity
  - Enrol with career services
  - Work as a professional sports person,
  - Work as an entertainer
- unless you are on a foundation programme
- Secure a permanent full-time job

### Tips:

- Reach out to your university's career department for assistance with job searches, CVs, cover letters, and more.
- Volunteering with organizations like NISAU or charities can provide valuable references for future job applications, as employers highly value volunteer work.
- Use LinkedIn to network and establish connections with companies that interest you.
- Explore mentorship platforms for international students studying in the UK.

## GRADUATE ROUTE

A Graduate visa gives you permission to stay in the UK for at least 2 years after successfully completing a course in the UK.

### Eligibility:

- you're in the UK
- your current visa is a Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa
- you studied a UK bachelor's degree, postgraduate degree or other eligible course for a minimum period of time required for the course with your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa
- your university or college has told the Home Office you've successfully completed your course

Apply online at [www.gov.uk/graduate-visa](https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa).

- Use a valid BRP for identity verification through the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app.
- In exceptional assurance cases, proceed without a BRP and complete the application form.
- Submit your application by paying the £822 application fee plus IHS fees.
- It's important not to travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man until you receive a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do so.

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## BUILD YOUR UK FAMILY



**Note\*-** Sometimes spammers providing assignment writing services can get into student WhatsApp/Facebook groups, it is our recommendation that you do not engage with them and report such instances to group admins of the respective groups.



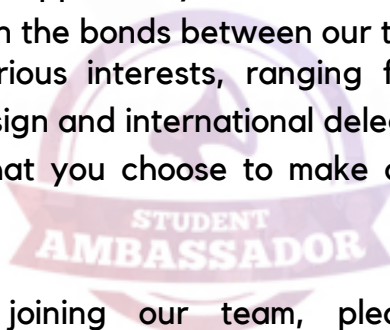
## VOLUNTEER WITH NISAU

We have an ongoing recruitment process, and we customize our positions to align with each volunteer's unique skills and interests. This approach allows us to assist you in achieving your goals more efficiently.

NISAU offers you a distinctive opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to our communities and to strengthen the bonds between our two great nations.

We have roles to suit various interests, ranging from event management and policymaking to graphic design and international delegation management.

At NISAU, your role is what you choose to make of it, and the possibilities are limitless.



If you're interested in joining our team, please send us your CV at [team@nisu.org.uk](mailto:team@nisu.org.uk), specifying the area of work you're interested in.

If you're open to diverse responsibilities and tasks, you can simply state that you're applying for the position of National Officer.

NISAU UK has been an exceptional platform for personal and professional growth. As a Student Ambassador and Digital Media Coordinator, I've had the privilege of working with an incredibly talented team that embodies visionary thinking and unwavering commitment to our shared goals. This experience has not only enhanced my skills but also reaffirmed my belief in the power of teamwork and the incredible potential of dedicated individuals working together.

-Rabbani,  
National officer

I have always been passionate about volunteering and uplifting the community. Joining NISAU in the UK has truly helped me network, share my passion and stay connected with my roots. It's indeed an incredible organisation to be a part of

-Sakshi Pandit  
Alumnus Kingston University, London



## WELLBEING IN THE UK

No matter the issue, you're never alone. Seek assistance at your educational institution, where you may find an international student advisory service, welfare tutors, main tutors, security staff, or campus police who are trained to provide guidance and support for personal problems.

Additionally, please contact your GP (General Practitioner).

You can also reach out to [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) or call 116123 free from any phone, as they are available 24/7, 365 days a year. NHS talking therapies can help you manage stress by offering a listening ear.

Don't hesitate to talk with NISAU; we are here to assist you. Email us at [team@nisu.org.uk](mailto:team@nisu.org.uk).

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

Police  
Ambulance  
Fire Services



NHS  
Emergency  
Services



Student scams are very common, please refrain from sharing any sensitive information such as PASSPORT NUMBER, BRP, BANK DETAILS and other information with anyone.

Please be aware the **HOME OFFICE** will NEVER call you. Scammers may call with fake numbers and intimidate you.

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL**

Immediately report such incidences to ACTION FRAUD UK.

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

 **0300 123 2040**



Incase of any scam or fraud, report to action fraud

## **FURTHER GUIDANCE**

### **High Commission of India:**

The High Commission of India is situated at India House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4NA. There are also four Consular missions located in Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff, and Birmingham.

**Website:** [www.hcilondon.gov.in](http://www.hcilondon.gov.in)

### **UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA):**

UKCISA is the UK's national advisory body serving the interests of international students and those who work with them.

**Website:** [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

**Phone:** +44 207 788 9214

Office hours (Monday to Friday, except for public holidays): 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm (UK time)

### **National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU):**

We are the oldest and largest network of Indian students, alumni, and young professionals in the UK. We are your home away from home.

**Website:** [www.nisau.org.uk](http://www.nisau.org.uk)

**Email:** [team@nisu.org.uk](mailto:team@nisu.org.uk)



# nisau

National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK

#HomeAwayFromHome



[www.nisau.org.uk](http://www.nisau.org.uk)