



UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER

Safety and Wellbeing

Staying Safe

Top tips for staying safe at
University and in London



Personal Safety

- **City Life:** London is a vibrant, exciting city full of opportunities, culture, restaurants, bars and entertainment.
- **Tips** - to help you stay safe.
- **Be aware of your surroundings**, use common sense, take some simple precautions.

Valuables and Theft

- **Distractions** – Be aware of who is around you and what's going on. Earphones, chatting on your phone, playing your music too loud [Look Up. Look Out.](#)
- **Secure** – Keep your valuables out of sight e.g. [mobile phones](#).
- **IMEI number** – International Mobile Equipment Identity. 15-digit serial number to identify a device. To find it, dial ***#06#** on your keypad.
- **Cash Machines** – Cover your PIN number. [Put cards and cash away.](#)
- **Pickpocketing** – Most common form of theft in London. Increase in criminals using [bikes and mopeds](#) to snatch valuables & mobile phones.
- [Immobilise.com](#) – Register your valuables for free. It's partnered with the police, so if a stolen item is retrieved, it can be traced back to you.

Cyber Crime, Frauds and Scams

- **Tip** – If something seems to be good to be true – it probably is.
- **Scams** – [phishing emails](#), [smishing text/WhatsApp](#), [vishing \(scam callers\)](#) & [fake websites](#).
- **Impersonation** – Some criminals target International students by pretending to be from the [UK Home Office or an education agent](#).
- **Personal Information** – Don't give out personal/financial information or confirm that your information is correct, do not pay over any money - Hang up!
- **Report** – If you think you have been targeted, contact the [Student Centre](#) or report it to [Action Fraud](#).
- **Further Guidance** – [UKCISA website](#), the [Government website](#) and the **Met Police Little Book of Big Scams**

Getting Around Safely

- **Route** – Plan your route in advance.
- **Safety in Numbers** – Go out in groups. Share mobile numbers. Have a back-up plan if you get separated.
- **Mobile Phone** – Fully charged - take it with you.
- **Inform Others** – Let friends know where you're going and when you'll be back. Share your live location on your phone using Google Maps or WhatsApp.

Socialising

- **Alcohol** – Lowers your inhibitions. Look out for friends.
- **Spiking** – When someone puts drugs or alcohol into another person's drink or body without permission. See the [Government Factsheet](#).
- **Drinks** – Don't leave your drink unattended, accept drinks from someone you don't know, drink someone else's drink.
- **Respect and Consent** – Never pressure someone to drink or touch them without their consent. Be respectful.

Public Transport

- **Plan a journey** – Use the [Transport for London website](#).
- **Getting home** – Check the time of the last [train](#), [bus](#), [night tube](#) or [tram](#) home or arrange a [taxi](#).
- **If you feel uncomfortable/unsafe** – get off if safe to do so or ask another passenger for assistance. Contact the [British Transport Police](#).

Taxis

Black Cabs and Minicabs



London Taxis, Black Cabs and Minicabs

- Only Black Cabs can be hailed on the street.
- You can also book a Black Cab using the [Gett app](#).
- Minicabs must be pre-booked. They are often cheaper but always ask the fair before you book.
- Don't use unlicensed minicabs. You can find licensed minicabs using the [TfL Licence Checker](#).
- Further information on Visit London – [Black cabs and minicabs](#).

If you feel unsafe

- **Trust your instincts** – If something doesn't feel right, ask someone for help.
- **Remove yourself from the situation if you can** – Cross the street, move to a public area, e.g. shop, restaurant, etc. and ask/telephone for help.
- **Ask for Angela:** If you in a situation where you feel unsafe you can notify a member of the venue staff or [Ask for Angela](#) - anyone can use this service, men & women.
- **British Transport Police** – If you are lost or need assistance, speak to a member of staff or phone the [British Transport Police](#) for free **+44 (0)800 40 50 40** or you can text [61016](#) to tell them about non-emergency incidents.
- **Dial [999](#)** – In an emergency.

The Police

Police in the UK have a duty to protect everyone. They are approachable and helpful.

<https://www.met.police.uk/>



How to Identify a Police Officer

- **A real police officer will:**
 1. Always produce their official warrant card with photograph, name and identity number.
 2. Always tell you why you've been stopped.
 3. Provide a [Crime Reference Number](#) when you report a crime.
- **Police Identity Check** - You can [call the police on 101](#) stating the officer's name and warrant number.
- **Safe Connection** - is a visual check for lone women to confirm the identity of an officer. You can ask the officer for a video identity check with their control room.

Who to Contact

- **999** – emergency number for any service (Free of charge)
- **101** – non-emergency police number (Free of charge)
- **British Transport Police** – on freephone +44 (0)800 40 50 40 or text **61016** to tell them about non-emergency incidents
- **Online Crime report** – non-emergency quick reporting tool
- **University** – Campus Receptions, the **Student Centre** and the **Report and Support** tool.
- University **Emergencies website** for further information.