

Student Services



University of
Chester

The Students' Off Campus Guide





Hello!

Our locations are in **safe and welcoming** cities. We want you to enjoy your time in the cities and you, as Citizen Students, have a part to play.

- ✔ Enrich your student experience
- ✔ Say hello to your neighbours
- ✔ Volunteer while you are here.

We've put together this guide to help you.



RESPECT

We are a community. We make a difference.

We want everyone to be on the same page about unacceptable behaviours so we can work together on preventing them.

By enrolling with us you agree to abide by the [Student Code of Conduct](#) so you should read and understand what the University expects of you.

Here are some important points from the Code of Conduct you need to know.

1. **Responsible, Reasonable and Respectful** Conduct.
2. You should behave responsibly and with consideration, courtesy and **respect towards others**.
3. You should **act within the law**, and behave in accordance with the University's rules.
4. **You should not** do anything that brings the University into disrepute.
5. **Under no circumstances** will the University tolerate any behaviour that could be an offence against a person.
6. **You should not engage in behaviour** which causes offence or distress because of the protected characteristics of: age; disability; sex; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief.

Socialising safely

You are now part of an off campus community made up of working people, families, retired people and school children.

There are many different lifestyles in all communities and you should respect the different lifestyles of all members of the community.

Going out

Top Tips

Have a good night out.

These tips will help you to spot anything dodgy and make sure your night out remains a good one.

- 1. Out together. Home together. Plan your journey.**
Plan your route home in advance. Check the last train or bus time in good time. Check in with your friends. Make sure you all get home safe and look after one another. Take a taxi you can trust – use black cabs and those booked through operators.
- 2. Don't be a creep! Call out inappropriate behaviour.**
Put yourself in their shoes. If someone tells you they're not interested, they're not playing hard to get. And remember, everyone's allowed to change their mind. Call out your friends whose behaviour is not OK.
- 3. Watch out for open water.**
Take a safe route away from water – one drunken slip could end your life. If you spot someone in the water, call 999 and ask for the fire service. Do not enter the water but do shout for help.
- 4. Be smart with phones and bags.**
Thieves can grab a phone in seconds. Don't leave your phone or bag unattended, out of your sight, or on a table. Close your bag and don't leave a phone on show in your back pocket.
- 5. Take it easy! The best nights are the ones you can remember.**
No one ever deserves to be spiked. It doesn't matter if someone who gets spiked was already drinking or had already taken drugs – they are in no way to blame for what happened to them. 100% of the blame, shame and responsibility lies with the perpetrator (person who carried it out). In a recent academic survey of University of Chester students, 1 in 10 of those surveyed said that they would accept a drink from a stranger. Some common sense actions can help reduce your vulnerability to this crime. Never accept a drink that you have not seen prepared and don't leave your drinks unattended. If you suspect that you have been spiked, seek medical advice straight away and report it to the police as soon as you can. Reports should always be taken seriously.

Staying in?

Meeting at friends' houses and flats when living off campus is a big part of student life. We want you to enjoy this part of your student experience and overwhelmingly University of Chester students do this in a respectful and responsible way.

Unfortunately, a small minority don't and people will raise issues with the University and our partners in policing and the local councils.

Get to know your neighbours

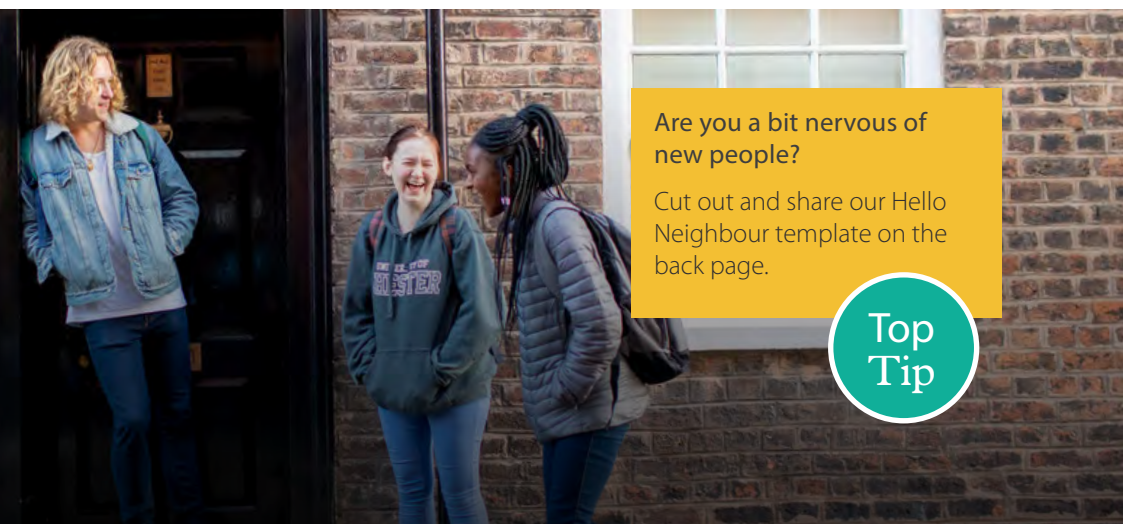
We are very lucky to have friendly neighbours and you should get to know them. Say hello when you move in! A 'say hello' cake goes a long way! A friendly smile can help break down barriers.

Neighbours with different lifestyles to you will complain to the University about unacceptable noise levels at all times of the day. If you are planning a party we ask that you let your neighbours know and discuss an acceptable time for the party to end.

Let's go outside

Your University cities are covered by Public Space Protection Orders. These cover antisocial behaviour and impose conditions to ensure that we can all enjoy outdoor spaces. If you use alcohol or drugs or pee in public, police officers can fine you up to £100.

You can get involved with a number of environmental projects at the University Search for opps at <https://volunteering.chester.ac.uk/>



Are you a bit nervous of new people?

Cut out and share our Hello Neighbour template on the back page.

Top
Tip

Playing your part

BYB – Bring your bike

If you really don't need a car (obviously there are people who do) why not bring a bike?

You can find all the most up to date info on sustainable travel on our website [here](#)

Talking rubbish

If you are living in a shared house you can find out the "rubbish rules" by visiting the Council's website.

Cheshire West and Chester

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/waste-and-recycling.aspx>

Warrington

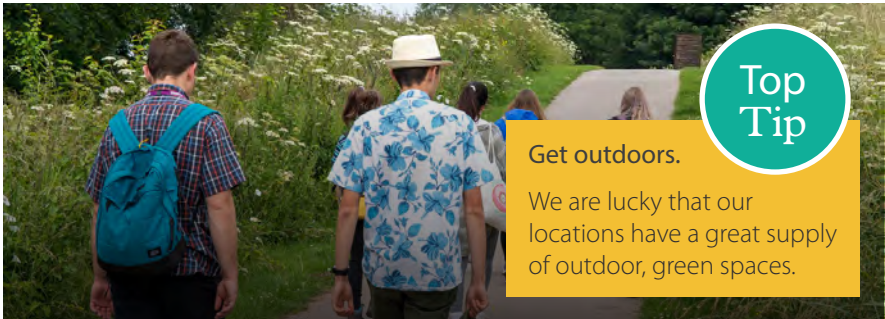
<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/binswaste-and-recycling>



Volunteering ways to wellbeing

Volunteering while at University is good for your wellbeing and can be helpful for your CV.

Find more details on volunteering opportunities [here](#)



Top Tip

Get outdoors.

We are lucky that our locations have a great supply of outdoor, green spaces.

Crime prevention

Our host cities are very safe places. Students living in houses off campus can still be vulnerable to opportunistic crime.

Follow the tips below to make sure it's not you and your housemates.

Personal safety

Reducing your risk of vulnerability to crime is all about following a few common sense guidelines:

- Thieves are after an easy target: walk in groups at night, travel by taxi or stay with friends, your safety is worth more than the cab fare home
- Use well lit streets to walk home, don't use alleyways
- Use cash machines during the day if you can. Never write down your PIN number, be vigilant
- Don't leave drinks unattended, if you think your drink has been spiked do your best to alert somebody you trust.

Take a few simple precautions

Reduce the risk of you being targeted by criminals:

- You should lock all outside windows and doors even when you are at home 1 in 3 burglaries are a result of an open or unlocked door or window
- Don't leave your valuables on view and if you've got an alarm use it
- Don't forget you can register any valuable property (e.g. laptops, mobile phones, tablets) on www.immobilise.com free of charge. This will help the police to return lost or stolen items to their rightful owners and also acts as a deterrent to offenders.

We work closely with our partners in Cheshire Police, they have lots of advice on crime prevention <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

More safety tips and advice can be found at, [Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#), personal safety for students.

Available support

The University is here to offer you advice and guidance if you encounter any issues when living off campus.

The University has several ways for you to report any issues to us.

In an emergency or if you are in immediate danger call 999. If you are unsure whether or not a situation is an emergency, our police liaison tells us that it is better to call 999, and the service will be able to advise you. Police non-emergency call 101 or visit your local police station.

Student Services

You can contact us at studentservices@chester.ac.uk or by calling on 01244 511 550

Student Discipline

The Proctor has responsibility for the investigation of all reports of student misconduct. Reports can come from staff at the University, members of the public and other students.

If you are experiencing behaviour which is affecting your wellbeing, whether that is from another student, a member of staff or a member of the public, you can contact the Proctor's office for some advice and guidance.

Student misconduct is dealt with under the [Student Disciplinary Procedure](#). Contact us at universityproctor@chester.ac.uk or by calling on 01244 511559

Report a concern

The University of Chester is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for all members of the University community. We value equality and diversity and promote respect. If you or someone you know has experienced or witnessed unacceptable behaviour such as harassment, discrimination, sexual assault, abuse, bullying or hate crime you can report it by using our simple reporting tool.

All students, staff, visitors and employers can report using this tool. You can report an incident wherever it has occurred, for example off campus, during placement and in the workplace.

[Report a concern](#)

Police Liaison

We have a strong partnership with our police and police community safety officer liaisons.

We can support you in reporting to the police if you wish to do so. To get in touch with our police liaison please call the Student Support Helpdesk on 01224 511 550.

Chester Students' Union

The Advice Centre is a free, confidential, independent and non-judgemental service, offering advice on many areas that may affect you during your time at University.

You can find further information and contact details at the CSU Advice Centre <https://www.chestersu.com/advice>



Sexual Violence Liaison Officer Service

The University has a team of trained and accredited SVLOs who can offer support to students who have experienced sexual violence or harassment either recently or in the past.

You can find further details on our service and how to access our support at:

[SVLO Service](#)

The socials

UoC Community Liaison

 @LiaisonUof

Chester Police

 @PoliceChester

Garden Quarter Chester

(Chester's friendliest neighbourhood)

 @gardenquarter

 @gardenquarter

Louise Collins, Community Liaison Manager
Tel: 01244 511 023 Email: community@chester.ac.uk



Hello!

We're students studying at the University of Chester
and we're your new neighbours!

Our names are

We live at

We're excited to be part of the local community and look
forward to getting to know you and our other neighbours.

If you want to get to know us or have any concerns
you can get in touch with us via

We look forward to meeting you soon!



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