Welcome back to Nottingham

Your handy Students’ Union guide to living in the community
Introduction

You are now part of a mixed community of people which brings about certain roles and responsibilities that are very different to living in halls of residence.

We’ve put together this guide to help support you during your time living in the community with lots of advice on how to be a good neighbour, get involved and make a positive impact on your local area.

Nottingham is a brilliant place to live, work and study and we want you to make the most of your time whilst you’re in this great city.
Welcome from your Community Officer

“Hi, my name’s Sofia and I’m your Community Officer for the next academic year.

My role encompasses looking after you in issues to do with housing, transport, being your representative to the local council, and much more. Moving out into the community can be an exciting and daunting experience and this year is going to look very different due to the current global climate, however your SU is here to support you every step of the way. I hope you enjoy your time living off-campus, and that you can make a positive impact on your neighbourhood. Remember, look after yourself; look after your Community!

Sofia Thomas
SU Community Officer

Hello! We are your Students’ Union

We’re an independent, student-led organisation that represents your needs, protects your rights and makes sure your voice is heard. Led by a team of elected SU Officers, we’re a vibrant community 34,000 strong, made up of first-year students and PhDs, SU staff and volunteers. And you’re automatically a member when you join the University of Nottingham.

Visit our website to find out more su.nottingham.ac.uk
Your role as a housemate

Sharing a house with your friends is something you’ll always remember from your time at University – and as a housemate, you’ll play a role in making sure shared living is a fantastic experience.

Here are some day-to-day practicalities to help you have the best time:

Create a rota. As soon as everyone has moved in, create a rota of all the chores and tasks the whole household will have responsibility for. Whether that’s washing up, cleaning the bathroom or putting the bins and recycling out, decide as a group who does what and when. And when something isn’t quite right, avoid passive aggressive notes and revenge tactics; it’s super important to talk to each other!

Spend time together. Organise something social that involves everyone in the house – maybe a movie night or making homemade pizzas together.

SU Advice says: Have a chat with your housemates about visitors and acceptable noise levels. It’s good to talk this through early on to make sure you all agree on house rules.
Your role as a neighbour

Even if you live in an area that’s home to lots of other students, there’s often a number of long-term residents living there too. As a good neighbour, you can look out for each other, get to know new people and feel more at home where you live.

Things you could do:

**Say hello!** If you’re friendly and approachable, you’re much more likely to have a positive relationship with your neighbours.

**Ordering a taxi?** Remember to ask the driver not to sound their horn when they arrive as it can disturb your neighbours. And wait inside for the taxi to arrive to avoid noisy gatherings on your doorstep.

**Heading out for the night?** Be considerate of sleeping residents and keep the noise down as you walk into town and head home at the end of the night.

**Going out with alcohol?** It is an offence to drink alcohol on the streets of Nottingham. Don’t let your drink get poured down the drain, leave it at home!
Your role as a member of the community

When you live in Nottingham and the surrounding area, you're part of a vibrant community. As well as being an ambassador for the University, you're now a citizen of Nottingham. There's loads to love about living here, and there's plenty you can do to get involved and make Nottingham a city we can all be proud to live in.

Want to have your say in how your city is run?

Remember to register to vote:
gov.uk/register-to-vote
SU Advice: top tips

Follow SU Advice’s top tips to keep your home clean, tidy and comfortable.

1. Always keep the house clean. Think about drawing up a cleaning rota - it’s a good way to prevent squabbles with your housemates!

2. Make sure you heat and air the house properly.

3. Check smoke alarm batteries every week and change lightbulbs when you need to.

4. Be careful what you put down your sink and toilet!

5. Check if you have responsibility for maintaining the garden, as some contracts specify that you do.

Want to take a look at the full Moving In Guide?

su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice/housing-advice/moving-in
Binformation and recycling

• Keep on top of your waste and avoid a fine
• Sign up for email bin alerts so you don’t miss collection day
• Take your bins off the street as soon as they’ve been emptied
• Support the environment by recycling as much as possible

Find all the information you need at:
nottingham.ac.uk/go/generalwaste
nottingham.ac.uk/go/recycling

“PLEASE, NO MORE BAGS”

Improving recycling in the City of Nottingham.

Don’t bag your recyclables
Items need to be clean, dry and loose

Find out more about our new campaign to prevent recycle bin contamination in certain wards of Nottingham
nottingham.ac.uk/go/recycling

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University of Nottingham Students' Union

Nottingham City Council
Nottingham City Council
Supporting students

Nottingham City Council is your local authority and as a citizen of Nottingham you have access to a whole host of information and services.

- Bin collections
- Report a problem such as a fly tip
- Private landlords and tenants
- Safer housing team
- Student parking permits
- Community protection
- Report antisocial behaviour
- Your local councilors
- Local events

To access all this information
Visit nottingham.city.gov.uk and twitter.com/mynottingham for the latest news and events
Get Involved: volunteer in your local community

There’s always loads going on in your local community, so why not use your free time to volunteer for causes that matter to you?

Check out the different types of opportunities and find something to suit you:

- Ongoing projects
- Students-led projects
- One-off volunteering
- Micro volunteering

Want to volunteer but don’t know where to start? Our Volunteering team are happy to help! Email volunteering@nottingham.ac.uk or visit su.nottingham.ac.uk/volunteering for information about local opportunities in your area.
Your Students’ Union Advice team

Students’ Union Advice provide free, impartial advice and information to all University of Nottingham students.

Independent of the University, the Advice team is made up of permanent members of Students’ Union staff and our service is completely confidential.

We provide information and advice on a wide range of issues affecting students such as:

- **Housing advice** – house hunting, contracts, deposits, issues with landlords, disrepair, disputes with housemates etc
- **Money advice** – funding, debt, budgeting, benefits and tax credit etc
- **Course advice** – extenuating circumstances, academic appeals, complaints, student code of discipline etc
- **Hate crime** – we are a hate crime reporting centre

Get in touch

E: suadvice@nottingham.ac.uk
T: 0115 846 8730
Office: C floor, Portland Building, University Park

You can find out more information about our service at su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice
Off campus student affairs

Many of you choose to move off campus during your time at University. We have lots of information, advice and guidance available to support you when you become a member of your local community. This includes guidance on what it takes to manage your private home, advice on being a good neighbour and ambassador for the University, as well as important information on crime prevention and safety.

Our team are here to help you make the most of living in your local community. Visit nottingham.ac.uk/yourcommunity to find out more.

Neighbourhood help

The University expects students to act in accordance with the University Code of Conduct and to be ambassadors for the University. If you find an occasion where this isn’t being observed please contact us via our helpline. This 24-hour helpline offers you and local residents the opportunity to let the University know about any issues of concern you may have. Please leave a message about anything from noisy neighbours to uncollected rubbish.

Messages are quickly dealt with, but this isn’t an emergency helpline. Call 0115 846 8666 or email offcampus@nottingham.ac.uk
Outsmart the opportunists

Keep your stuff safe, whether you’re at home, out for the evening or on holiday.

- Leave your lights on if you go out in the evening.
- Keep your valuables and keys out of sight.
- Keep bikes secure with a D-lock, even if locked away in a shed.
- Keep your doors and windows locked, even if you’re in the house.
- Close your curtains at night.
Sustainable travel

Nottingham has great public transport links with a fantastic bus and tram network so there’s no need to bring your car. Parking is extremely limited for residents in Nottingham and on our campuses. If you do have to bring your car to university, you may need to buy a parking permit.

Taxi

Sometimes a taxi is the best option.

We’ve joined forces with UNICAB to bring you the Safer Taxi Scheme so that you’ll always be able to get home safely.

Text UNICAB TO 80818 or call +44 (0) 1159 500 500 to use a fixed price list or the emergency taxi scheme. For more information visit https://unicab.app

Buy before you board.

No tram ticket? That's a £50 fine.
Safety and security

- Want to know what’s happening in your local area? Sign up for Police Neighbourhood Alerts: nottinghamshire.police.uk/alert
- Register your valuables for free with Immobilise.com
- SU Advice top tips: Keep the property secure – use the window locks and burglar alarm (if you have one) and keep your front door locked as much as possible
- If everyone is hanging out in the top floor bedrooms, make sure you lock the front door

- Don’t leave laptops, phones, keys or other valuables in reach or view of an open window

Find lots of safety and security advice at: nottingham.ac.uk/go/citysafety