

**Hi Freshers!**

**Not long until you all arrive, so we've put together this Questions & Answers pack to get you excited, reassure you and hopefully give you some useful information! We've asked the freps what they wish they'd known before arriving in Durham so that you can have the benefit of their experience. If you don't know how you're going to be able to pack everything, you may find their "what to bring, what to leave" advice useful too! Leave the worrying to us, and please get in touch if you're wondering about anything. See you all soon!**

**Butler love,**

**Siri & Simon xxx**



## What do you wish you'd known before arriving?



**Matt – That college is so involving, you often find yourself too busy to ever get bored!**

**Lucy – I wish I'd known that bringing lots of stuff means more time spent tidying.**



**Johanne – I wish I had known how amazing my flat would be and that Butler would take me all the way to Kosovo on an internship!**

**Becky – The hills...**



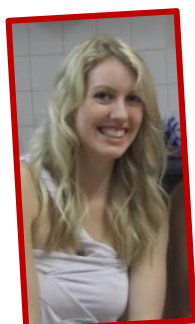
**Louise – I wish I'd brought a door stop, and more fancy dress stuff, pretty much anything you have lying around that could possibly be used, bring!**



**Claire – I wish I hadn't worried so about moving far from home - everyone was so, so welcoming!**



**Susie – How to cook a few easy dishes! It would've been helpful not to have to learn everything from scratch on a budget.**





**Tsuiyee – That the Park and Ride bus doesn't give you change, especially in the morning, so you'll need a stash of pound coins.**

**Naomi – I have to say I was rather nervous before arriving in Butler in October last year - I wish I'd known in advance that there was nothing to worry about! My first year here has been so much better than I ever imagined, I seriously couldn't have been any happier!**



**Mel - I wish I knew that I could contact other Freshers on the Facebook group and perhaps have discussed what to bring with them.**

**Maria – The weather takes some getting used to, especially if you are an international student from a country that has sunshine 300 days of the year!**



**Olivia – I wish I had known how easy it would be to fit in at University and that there are lots of people who would also prefer a quiet night in rather than a wild night out!**

**Beth – That a night out wearing heels is not an easy task due to Durham's hills, stairs and many cobbles! As a result I have sustained many an injury; I have learnt the hard way!**







**Laura – Where to get cheaper books; I spent a fortune in my first term buying literature/grammar books! (Try the library, the second-hand shelf in the bookshops or the book fair at Butler on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October!)**

**Jill – I wish I had known how special the opportunity is to try out so many new things. Embrace it and have fun!**



**Sajan – That the coffee shop/ bar food would be so good. I wouldn't have bothered bringing cooking utensils otherwise.**

**Sian – That I wasn't going to spend 3 years sitting quietly in the corner with no one to talk to because I was shy - everyone is in the same boat here, so make use of having "What's your name/ subject, where are you from?" etc. as ready-made conversation starters, and it all works from there!**



**Will – I wish I'd known that library books have different loan periods. Make sure you check if it's a short term or long term loan so that you don't get massive library fees!**

**Lal – That everyone at Butler will find out about anything that you do.**





**Nicki – The popularity of fancy dress, especially on bar crawls. Anything from pub golf to animal themes, pack any and all fancy dress you can fit in your car!**

**Tom – That it's not as scary meeting new people as I thought it was!**



**Rose – That Freshers' Week is not the be all and end all of making friends. I sure didn't as I was in bed with a broken wrist.**

**Alice – Not to worry. It's easy to say this a couple of years in, but you'll have the time of your life, just get excited! Also, have a look at module choices before you arrive.**



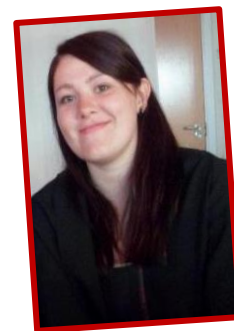
**Jonny – I wish I'd known that there are no teachers on your back making sure that you do your work. I might have had a more successful first year if I had.**



## What to pack? What to leave behind?



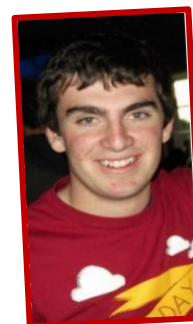
**Raoul – Toaster - didn't know that it was provided. Wish I'd taken plenty of tinned food and basic provisions.**



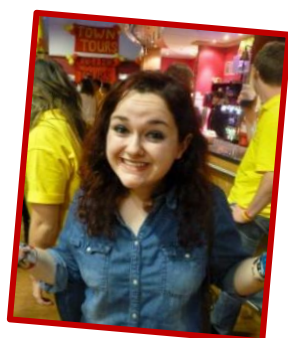
**Jenna – Wish I had brought a flask (for early morning lectures) and wish I had left my toastie machine at home, because everyone in my flat brought one.**



**Claire – I wish I had brought all my fancy dress from home as it is so useful. I didn't need to bring a lamp or a bin as the rooms have one already.**



**Rob – Wish I had brought some of my A-level notes as they would have helped in first term. Didn't bring anything I didn't need!**

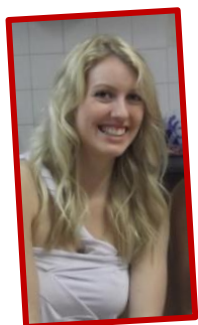


**Sarah – I wish I would have known to bring a lot more face paint, but NOT too many mugs to fill a mug tree!**

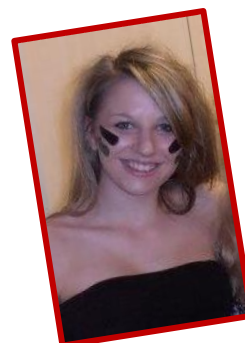


**Kate – I wish I'd brought a thicker duvet... for all those cold, lonely nights, and I wish I hadn't brought loads of pointless kitchen utensils - e.g. microwaveable omelette maker...**





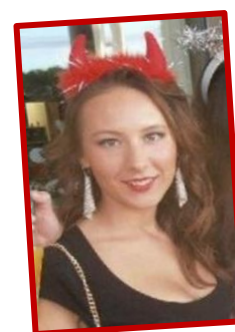
**Susie – I wish I had brought more fancy dress as it is almost constantly needed first term, and I didn't need to take new copies of all my textbooks as there were plenty of copies available second hand or in the library.**



**Emily – I wish I had brought enough hangers for my wardrobe and a bedside table for extra storage. I didn't need to bring a rolling pin.**



**Ellie – Wish I'd brought a little bit more storage space. I don't think a TV is necessary - iPlayer serves just as well.**



**Valentina – More umbrellas considering how often they break, more storage space. I needed everything I brought.**



**Owen – I wish I'd brought more posters etc in my first term; Butler feels like home, so it's important to make it look like home! I didn't NEED to bring the globe-shaped drinks cabinet... but I'm glad I did. Again, nothing nicer than a personal touch to your Butler room!**

**James – I wish I'd brought more pound coins and 50ps (more change in general, actually) because it's so useful: for the pool tables, entry to clubs and drinks. Having said that, I've gotten into the habit of going to the bank and exchanging notes for change. I didn't need to bring my Christmas puddings (I still haven't eaten them).**





**Tash – I wish I'd brought more pictures for my walls, but I definitely did not need to take as many kitchen utensils as I did!**

**Sam – A bike: makes bed to the science site become a <10 minute trip**



**Judith – I really wish I had brought face paint to uni for all the wacky dressing up you end up doing. You definitely do not need to take a TV as you have no time to watch it as you are too busy socialising!**

**Siri – I wish I'd known that there's plenty of room for storage boxes on top of the wardrobe and under the bed, and space for a little bedside table. I wish I'd brought pictures to decorate with, but the DSU sells posters during freshers' week!**



**Hannah – I wish I had brought an umbrella; I did not need half of my kitchen equipment.**

**Paul – Bring tinfoil and a clothes horse/airer. You do not need to bring an Ethernet cable**



**Nemmy – I wish I had known that things always go missing or get broken so don't bring anything (in the kitchen at least) that you really value. And you can NEVER have too much fancy dress!**



**Matt – You'll be fed for most of the week so no need to bring fresh food, just things you can snack on and will last a while like cans. Don't forget all pots and pans as I did! Some cheap shoes you can go out in, because in clubs they will get trashed, trust me. Most networks will work in Durham, but O2 was by far the strongest.**



**Unless you're on 3 or something like that I wouldn't worry too much. For your bedroom there's already a lamp and bin, but that's about it. It's a good idea to bring lots of hangers, some speakers for your laptop, a door stop and maybe some rugs/mats and posters to brighten up the place.**



**Dave – Everyone will need paracetamol, and possibly lemsip, to combat hangovers and Freshers' flu (yes, it's a real thing). Don't buy too much stuff for the fridge and freezer; the space doesn't go that far between 6 people.**

**Jonny – A bedside table is needed, I wish I'd had one with drawers as storage is tight if you have a lot of stuff. I didn't need as many bowls, plates, etc. The more you bring, the more that will pile up making the kitchen dirty!**



**So now you know what we wish we'd known before arriving and what student essentials to pack! Hope that helps!**