

A Day in the Life of an International Postgraduate Student

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Namaste from Birmingham! I'm Shivani, an MSc Financial Management student and a Postgraduate Ambassador at the University of Birmingham. As an international student, pursuing higher studies at a global university can be an exciting yet challenging experience, trying to balance your cultural identity with your academic goals and personal life.

Let me take you on a journey through my transition from India to Birmingham and share my insights on a typical day here- exploring campus life, city adventures, and some valuable tips for my fellow international students.



Your application

As the opportunity arrived to broaden my perspectives and carve out a path for personal and professional growth, the University of Birmingham offered a seamless online application portal, ensuring a smooth transition and providing the tools and guidance necessary to thrive in your new environment.

In addition to academic qualifications, the university also values extracurricular achievements and personal statements, so be sure to put your best foot forward and let your passion, unique talents, and dedication shine through in your application. Explore the university's scholarship database and stay updated on application deadlines to maximize your chances of securing financial assistance, specifically tailored for international applicants.

Whether it's orientation programs, language courses, or cultural integration workshops, there's plenty of support available to help you settle in and make the most of your university experience.

UoB campus

My days usually kick off with a hearty breakfast at my accommodation (and community breakfast on Wednesdays), energizing me for the day ahead. On campus, you'll often find me immersed in engaging lectures and thought-provoking seminars, exchanging ideas with peers from around the globe. During breaks, I love strolling through the campus square, occasionally indulging in a coffee from one of the charming cafes dotted around. The university provides ample study spaces throughout the campus, but my go-to spot is in the Main Library, overlooking the campus through the window. The bustling Joe's Bar at the Guild of Students is another favourite hangout spot, buzzing with activities and offering various clubs and societies catering to diverse interests. Proximity to grocery stores makes it easy for shopping on my way back to university accommodation at the end of the day. UOB's own Art Gallery and Geology Museum are hidden gems on campus, where I often visit on my days off. Our most beloved Old Joe, the Winterbourne House and Garden along with the interior designs and architecture of old university buildings fascinate me to the core.



City life

Just a short bus ride away or two stops from the University's train station, lies the heart of Birmingham. Venturing into the city centre is always an exhilarating experience, the streets swarmed with a mix of cultures, reflected in the array of restaurants, markets, and cultural festivals.

I enjoyed visiting the Edgbaston Stadium, Cadbury World, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, National Sea Life Centre, and I often find myself wandering through the Bullring Shopping Centre. The city's thriving nightlife scene also offers plenty of opportunities for socializing and unwinding after a busy day of studies. One of the highlights of my time in Birmingham has been the annual Christmas market, transforming the city centre into a winter wonderland adorned with twinkling lights and festive cheer. Strolling through the market stalls, sipping mulled wine, and admiring the intricate handicrafts evoke a sense of warmth and joy, making it a cherished memory.

My top tips

Be prepared! Transitioning from studying in another country to life in the UK can be daunting, but with an open mind and proactive approach, it becomes a rewarding experience. Here are some helpful tips that enabled me to adapt seamlessly:

- Perhaps the most crucial aspect is to remain open-minded, step out of your comfort zone, and wholeheartedly immerse yourself in the local culture and way of life. The more you embrace new experiences, the richer and more gratifying your international journey will be.
- Financial management is key when living and studying abroad. Be pragmatic by taking up a part-time job, diligently budgeting your expenses, and being mindful of costs like accommodation, daily commute (get a bus/train pass), educational resources, and recreation.
- Make the most of the wealth of academic resources at your disposal — be it consulting professors during office hours, leveraging the extensive university libraries, availing career services, and taking advantage of writing centres to polish your skills.
- A vibrant social life can be a potent antidote to battling bouts of homesickness or burnout. In addition to participating in seasonal events and activities on campus, do join clubs, societies, or community organizations that align with your interests, beliefs, and passions. This allows you to forge lasting connections and friendships that turn Birmingham into your home away from home.
- Last but not least, don't neglect your roots! Seek out and surround yourself with cultural associations that celebrate your heritage in the city. Relish the simple joys of home-cooked meals, festivals, and traditions to remain grounded in your identity as you spread your wings.



Birmingham has truly been the most incredible backdrop for me to live my dream of pursuing quality education, as each day brings new experiences and opportunities for growth. From academic pursuits to cultural adventures, the city has welcomed me with open arms.

Looking to study at Birmingham? [Explore our study pages today.](#)



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