

Starting University Checklist

Contents

Preparation	2
Money	2
The Move	2
Accommodation.....	2
Linen.....	3
Clothes	3
Bathroom and medicines.....	3
Electronics.....	4
Software.....	4
Stationery.....	5
Documents	5
Kitchen	5
Cleaning.....	6
Personal	6
Food	6
Safety and security.....	6

This checklist is extensive - not all items are required for everyone 😊

Starting University Checklist

Preparation

- Identify and set goals for:
 - a. academic success
 - b. social life
- Find out what social activities are available
- Check out the college website
- Check out the student association website
- Agree on how and when you'll communicate with:
 - a. family
 - b. friends

Money

- Sort out where the money is coming from, e.g. a job, parents, savings, etc.
- Sort out where the money is going too, e.g. a bank account - student accounts are available
- Create a budget to ensure the essential college expenses are covered, and you know how much money is left over
- Decide the budget on other necessities, like food and social costs, e.g. events, clubs, etc.
- Practise sticking to your budget in the months leading up to college
- Use a banking app to keep track of your spending (there are also several budgeting apps available)
- If you've not spent your budget during a month, put that money into a savings account; you may have a sudden large bill, for example, a car repair
- Look at your bank statements regularly, start daily, once comfortable move to weekly and if confident you are on top of things, perhaps move to monthly

The Move

- If you can, view the accommodation before moving in
- Find out if there are local stores near your accommodation for any last-minute forgotten items and don't forget - ask for a student discount!
- Plan for the weather during moving
- Get to the accommodation as soon as you can. There could be many people arriving at the same time, especially if you are in dorm accommodation; the parking could get messy and stressful
- Bring snacks and water to help you through the move
- Accept help from friends and family to move in and arrange the room
- Pack light, but know your situation, e.g. are you going to a rural or city-based college?
- Pack a small bag with all your day one essentials (this will help you avoid spending all day unpacking)

Accommodation

- Air mattress (for visitors)
- Clock (in case of a power cut best have a battery-powered alarm; don't rely on your phone!)
- Lamps (general lighting and study lamps)
- Message board (a cork or whiteboard to leave messages and a "To-do's")
- Mirror(s)
- Storage (under-bed storage systems are a good idea)
- TV (although many student use laptops, tablets or even phones these days)
- Door stop (always ensure it is not a fire door before using – fire doors must not be held open)

Starting University Checklist

Linen

- Blankets
- Laundry basket
- Mattress protector or topper
- Pillows
- Sheets
- Shower Mat
- Towels

Clothes

- Backpack (a necessity for a student)
- Bad weather gear (this will depend upon where you're studying)
- Boots
- Hat
- Jacket
- Gloves
- Scarf
- Business clothes (if you're going to get a job, dress right for the interview)
- Casual clothes
- Dress shoes
- Formal clothes
- Hangers
- Jewellery
- Pyjamas
- Robe
- Shirts
- Shower shoes
- Socks
- Sports shoes
- Sun hat
- Swimwear
- Trousers
- Umbrella
- Underwear
- Workout clothes

Bathroom and medicines

- Allergy medicines
- Antacid
- Antibiotic cream
- Antidiarrheal medication
- Aspirin
- Birth control
- Body/face lotions
- Bug repellent
- Cold and flu medicine
- Comb/brush
- Contacts/solution
- Cotton swabs

Starting University Checklist

- Cough drops
- Decongestant
- Deodorant
- Eyeglasses
- Feminine hygiene products
- Floss
- Hairstyling equipment
- Hand mirror
- Makeup
- Prescription medicines
- Razor and shaving cream
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Soap
- Sterile bandages
- Sunscreen
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Tweezers
- Vaccinations (discuss with your health professional)
- Vitamins

Electronics

- Batteries (rechargeable)
- Cables (HDMI/Ethernet/USB)
- Chargers that cover all devices
- Computer (laptop/tablet/desktop)
- Headphones (consider Bluetooth - this will avoid cables everywhere)
- Keyboard and Mouse (ideally wireless - this will avoid cables everywhere)
- Laptop/monitor stand
- Laptop/tablet case (or a strong backpack designed for a laptop or tablet)
- Mobile phone (check service for the area)
- Monitor (especially useful if you use a small laptop or tablet as your computer)
- Power extension (a 4 point with surge protection, to protect your electronics, is ideal)
- Printer (and don't forget the paper; although it's more than likely your college will provide printing facilities)
- Speakers (ideally Bluetooth - this will avoid cables everywhere)
- USB drives/external storage (CadaStudent provides 2Gigabytes of free storage and will soon integrate cloud storage, e.g. Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, etc.)

Software

- Banking App
- CadaStudent (sorry, but we had to include ourselves)
- Office 365, G Suite... There are many alternatives, free and paid for, most of the paid ones include a discount for students, or may even be free through your college
- Security software. There are many to choose from, and you probably have your own already. If not, consider products such as Bitdefender, Kaspersky, Norton, Avast... A search online will provide reviews and suggestions

Starting University Checklist

- Virtual Private Network (VPN). As you'll be using public Wi-Fi, this is a must-have. We recommend NordVPN. We're not affiliated, but they have provided us with an excellent service for several years

Stationery

- Business cards (sounds weird, but as you're going to meet lots of new faces, useful in the early days)
- Envelopes (a selection from small letters and cards, to large documents)
- Folders (you're going to need them)
- Highlighters (yellow is excellent and doesn't interfere with printing)
- Flashcards (for revision)
- Notebooks (of course you can also use CadaStudent)
- Pens and pencils
- Rubber bands
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Sharpener
- Stamps
- Stapler
- Sticky notes

Documents

- Car insurance
- Car registration
- Class schedule
- College ID
- Credit and/or debit cards
- Driving license
- Emergency contact list (leave it somewhere prominent - the message board?)
- Health insurance card
- ID card
- Passport

Kitchen

- Bowls
- Can opener
- Chopping board
- Coffeemaker
- Cutlery set
- Glasses
- Hot plate
- Measuring jug
- Microwave
- Mugs
- Oven gloves
- Peeler
- Plates
- Saucepans

Starting University Checklist

- Scissors
- Small fridge
- Tea towel
- Tupperware
- Washing up sponge and liquid
- Water bottle

Cleaning

- All-purpose cleaner
- Dish soap
- Dishtowel
- Mini broom with dustpan
- Paper towels
- Rubbish bags
- Small vacuum
- Stain Remover
- Tissues
- Wet wipes

Personal

- Bicycle
- Books (to read for fun - not study!)
- Journal
- Luggage (for a weekend and home travel)
- Musical instruments
- Sports equipment

Food

- Check with roommates about allergies before buying or consuming!
- Bottled water
- Bread
- Cereal
- Coffee
- Tea
- Snacks
- Soup

Safety and security

- Bicycle helmet and lock
- Flashlight
- Pepper spray
- Safety whistle
- Small fire safe (to keep essential documents and computer backups)