

# TO-DO CHECKLIST | ON ARRIVAL

UPDATED 23 JAN 2022

- 1. ATM cash withdrawals.** Use ATMs that are *inside* a bank branch office where your transaction will be more secure (rather than on the street or in a transportation station where miscreants may rig the machine so you can't retrieve your cash).
- 2. At your first London tube station (at Heathrow if you arrive there), buy an Oyster (£5)** at one of the machines or from the station attendant, include £30 pay-as-you-go cash value on it. For current costs, elapsed time, and route from London's three airports, see table below. See seminar [TfL](#) page for further information.

TRANSIT TO CENTRAL LONDON from			
airport	£, off-peak	elapsed time	route
Heathrow via Heathrow Express + tube	22 + 2.40	0h58m + 0h21m	LHR > PAD; + Circle line   > KGX
Heathrow via tube	3.30	1h24m	Piccadilly line   Heathrow (zone 6) > KGX (zone 1)
Gatwick	8.70	1h11m	Thameslink > KGX
City	2.80	0h44m	DLR   > Canning Town; Jubilee line   > Green Park; Victoria line   > KGX

- 3. Check in at Victoria Hall, King's Cross, 25 Canal Reach.** Check in at the Management Office which is open Monday–Friday, 0900–1700. If unable to check-in, ask to leave your luggage securely until you can check in. You'll need one of your passport-style photos here for your dorm ID card.
- 4. Purchase your 16–25 Railcard from a staffed railroad station.** Kings Cross Station (KGX) is convenient—it's the train station closest to your dorm (Victoria Hall) and has a multi-staff customer service counter. You'll need to show the station attendant your passport and international student photo ID (as proof of full-time status and identity). Have your additional passport-style photos handy; you'll need one for your railcard. For information on how to purchase and how to use your railcard see seminar [Trains](#) page.
- 5. Be sure you have your Railcard with you when you travel** (on both train and Transport for London trips). For important information see seminar [TfL](#) page.
- 6. Register your Oyster and your railcard for the discount concession to save 33% when you travel off-peak.** A member of staff can add your Railcard discount at Tube and TfL Rail stations—the one at St Pancras (one level above tube ticket windows and entry turnstile) is near your dorm. It's free.
- 7. Pick up train tickets you already ordered.** You must:
  - use the same credit/debit card you used when you ordered them
  - pick them up at the station you selected when ordering your tickets.
- 8. If you want to use your cell phone, you'll need to purchase a more local sim card** (which can be found, for example, at a Vodafone store). Ask for a sim package that includes features you want—e.g., amount of data storage, where you can call. You'll receive a different phone number.
- 9. Get outside, walk about, check out your neighborhood, find a grocery store** (e.g., Waitrose, Sainsburys, or Tesco). **You're here! Immerse yourself in London!**

