



UK Student Support Guide 2023 Entry

MetFilm School UK Student Support Guide

MetFilm School is a world-leading film, television and online media school which offers undergraduate, postgraduate and short courses in London, Berlin, and Leeds.

If you're nervous about leaving home, moving to a new country, or just want specific information about our facilities, we've compiled some useful information that we hope will help you plan ahead for your time as a student and adjust to student life after you've arrived.

Our mission is to inspire a new generation of creative professionals. We bring the education and screen industries together in a creative environment, driven by great teaching and practical, hands-on experience, led by inspiring tutors.

In this guide, you will find:

- An introduction to life at MetFilm School London
 - Your local area
 - Food & drink
- An introduction to life at MetFilm School Leeds
 - Your local area
 - Food & drink
- Getting settled (gyms, GPs, TV license...)
- MetFilm Futures
- Student Support available at MetFilm School

MetFilm School London

London is one of the world's busiest filming cities, the home of historic productions such as *Oliver* and *Alfie*, and modern famous pictures including *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Harry Potter*, and many more.

Based in an industry centre, London has a thriving film community, complete with plenty of employment and entertainment opportunities. Not only this, but the borough of Ealing, where our campus is situated, is a beautiful area, even overlooking Walpole Park – 28 acres of treelined walkways and playgrounds.

MetFilm School Leeds

It has long been an ambition of the School to open a campus in a second UK city. Our strategic decision making since the School's inception some eighteen years ago has been driven by a desire to make the unique education we offer available to more people. That's why we started running undergraduate programmes, and later postgraduate programmes. It's why we opened in Berlin. And it is also why we have opened in Leeds.

Leeds is a city filled with support for the arts, including from Screen Yorkshire and Leeds City Council, who are putting significant resources into the sector. A fast-growing industry hub, Leeds is also proud to boast several new studio developments as talent moves to the city.



MetFilm School London

Our London campus is based at the famous Ealing Studios, known for productions including *The Ladykillers*, *Notting Hill*, *Downton Abbey*, and *The Theory of Everything*.

Studying in London means you have access to a huge range of filmmaking resources. London houses the British Film Institute, The Cinema Museum, The Kubrick Archives, and The London Film Museum.

The capital is also a great place to find work in the industry; with the UK's largest film studios based either within or in easy reach of London. These include: Pinewood, Ealing, Shepperton, and 3 Mills Studios.



A Guide to the Area

It's time to get to know your new city! Living in London has something to offer everyone. With a fantastic diverse population, the varied lifestyles are reflected through its wide range of cuisine, eclectic shops, thriving music scene, and a different event each night. London buzzes night and day with an unforgettable energy, and each area of the city has its own distinct atmosphere.

Transport for London (TfL) offers a student travelcard which gives a 30% discount to full-time students over 18. The 18+ Student Oyster Card can be used within London on trains, underground, buses, and the London Docklands Light Railway. The discount applies to students on our accredited Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses.

Ealing is a vibrant borough situated in West London, and is home to a vast number of shops, bars, pubs, and restaurants, with something to suit every taste and budget. Also on our doorstep are Notting Hill, Shepherd's Bush, and Richmond. During the summer, Ealing's parks host a number of festivals celebrating comedy, music, and beer.

Ealing has great links into Central London and is ideal for nights out on the town. On the tube, Ealing Broadway is just 25 minutes to Oxford Circus, and less than 35 minutes to Liverpool Street Station. There are also fast trains to Paddington and Heathrow Airport, including the new Elizabeth Line.

The Central (Ealing Broadway) and Piccadilly (South Ealing) lines operate 24-hour services to Ealing on Fridays and Saturdays. There are also buses right outside of Ealing Studios, and a free University of West London bus if you need it.



Markets

Notting Hill & Portobello Road

Type: Antiques, food, clothes, music, and more.

Camden Lock Market

Type: Clothes, food, music, arts, and more.

Brick Lane Market

Type: Flea-market, antiques, vintage clothes, arts, and food.

Borough Market

Type: Food, food, and more food!

Food & Drink Recommendations

Most known for our love of tea, scones and fish and chips in the UK there are a number of food and drink items you should sample while in the UK. Below are some of our top local picks for you to try out!

Breakfast / Coffee Shops

- **Eclectic Coffee Co** – breakfast, lunch, and weekend brunches
- **WA Cafe** – Japanese breads and pastries baked fresh each day
- **Artisan Coffee** – granola, pastries, and porridge
- **Limeyard** – Californian kitchen

Lunch

- **Atariya** – Sushi
- **L'oro di Napoli** – Pizza
- **Sikulo** – Pasta
- **The Beehive** – Deli

Pubs & Bars

- **Red Lion** – one of the best Sunday Roasts
- **The Wheatsheaf**
- **Crispins Wine Bar**
- **The Grove**

Restaurants

- **Maxim** – Chinese
- **Tandoori Villa** – Indian
- **Turtle Bay** – Caribbean
- **Blue Ocean** – Fish & Chips

Cultural Communities

South Asian Groceries: Harrow, Southall, Wembley

Southeast Asian Groceries: Chinatown

Portuguese Supermarkets: Stockwell, Oval

Polish Supermarkets: Shepherd's Bush

African-Caribbean Food: Lambeth, Lewisham

Arab Eateries: Edgware Road

South American Groceries: Elephant & Castle

Vietnamese Restaurants & Supplies: Hackney



Garden Studios

Garden Studios is a sustainably-focused film studio which has been specifically designed to support the latest production technologies. One of the highlights of this space is the Virtual Production Stage, a 48,000 square foot space which allows filmmakers to explore their wildest – and most creative dreams.

MetFilm School has partnered with Garden Studios, and from September 2022, will run our Certificate in Post Production and Certificate in Digital Animation & VFX in the Unit 16 space of The Townsend Campus at Garden Studios. Degree students from any Ealing courses may also have specific modules, workshops, or productions scheduled to take place at Garden Studios, where it offers a better delivery option than at Ealing Studios.

Having these courses take place at Garden Studios will allow students easy access to the studio facilities, including the state-of-the-art Virtual Production stage, and on-set VP technician team. Such practical learning experiences are at the core of MetFilm School's offering, allowing students to work closely with leading industry professionals and be hands-on with innovative technologies.

Garden Studios are also well-connected with the screen industry, collaborating with experts including:

- **Brompton Technology:** Manufacturers and suppliers of market-leading and award-winning Tessera LED processors for LED panels and video walls
- **MoSys:** An advanced camera robotics and virtual technology company
- **Mission:** The UK's leading DIT and digital dailies facility, offering start-to-finish digital workflow management for top film and TV productions
- **ProCam Take 2:** Europe's leading digital cinematography hire facility
- **Quite Brilliant:** A multi-discipline agency specialising in virtual production



'There are times in the growth of an organisation when something just makes so much sense, you don't need to think about it. This was one such time. our long-time partners, led by the co-founder of MetFilm School, Thomas Høegh, have a vision of a new studio complex that embraces so many of our core values – innovation in filmmaking, doing so in a sustainable way, and creating opportunity for new and emerging talent.'

Our educational philosophy is predicated on a drive to be at the heart of the film industry, and to demonstrate to our students that their ambitions in film are achievable. We do this by being situated in working film studios – and with Garden Studios and Ealing Studios in London, BUFA Studios in Berlin, and Prime Studios in Leeds, we are now in four.

Our presence in, and our partnership with Garden Studios, is core to these values. And we are tremendously excited to explore these opportunities the relationship will bring in the months and years ahead.'

- Jonny Persey, Director, MetFilm



MetFilm School Leeds

Our Leeds campus is based at Prime Studios, which plays host to professional productions, and is next door to ITV Studios, the home of its flagship soap *Emmerdale Farm*.

The industry is quickly waking up to the potential for growth in Leeds. Channel 4 recently moved its headquarters into Leeds, joining ITV, BBC, and a host of other production companies. Leeds is also well supported by Screen Yorkshire and Leeds City Council, who are putting significant resources into supporting the sector.

Leeds Film also delivers three annual film festivals: their International Film Festival, the Leeds Young Film Festival, and the Independent Directions Film Festival.



A Guide to the Area

Described as 'big city life' without the London prices, Leeds has something to offer everyone. As the home of 5 universities, the city has a huge student population, and the varied lifestyles of the community are reflected in the wide range of cuisine, shops, and thriving music scene.

Prime Studios is located in the City Centre, making it an easy journey to most places, whether you're looking for a shopping centre or a coffee shop. Leeds is also close to the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales, meaning you could be surrounded by the beauty of nature after just a couple of hours on the train!

Buses are the easiest way to get around Leeds. Most bus services run from 5am-11pm, although some routes do offer a night service, and you can purchase a 19-25 or 'Student' Photocard to access discounted tickets for each journey you make.

Alongside buses and taxis (including Uber), Leeds also has good train links, with Leeds Train Station offering journeys to London, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Manchester, and more.



Markets

Kirkgate Market

Type: Food, fashion, homewares, jewellery, and more.

Yeadon Market

Type: Fresh fruit and veg, seafood and meat.

Briggate Farmers' Market

Type: Freshly baked brownies, local fruit and veg, homewares, and more.

Artsmix Market

Type: Candles, bath bombs, handmade jewellery, and more.

Food & Drink Recommendations

Most known for our love of tea, scones and fish and chips in the UK there are a number of food and drink items you should sample while in the UK. Below are some of our top local picks for you to try out!

Breakfast / Coffee Shops

- Laynes Espresso
- La Bottega Milanese
- Kapow!
- Archive Coffee

Lunch

- Pocos
- Trinity Kitchen
- Bakery 164
- Chow Down!

Pubs & Bars

- Whitelocks
- Belgrave Music Hall
- Kirkstall Bridge
- Doghouse

Restaurants

- Bengal Brasserie – Asian
- Dakota Restaurant – Steakhouse
- Da Vito – Italian
- La Taberna – Mediterranean



London

Gyms

- **University of West London Fitness Centre**
(uwlsu.com/opportunities/gym)
- **Sports Club at University of West London**
(uwlsu.com/opportunities/sports)
- **Gymbox Ealing**
(gymbox.com/gyms/ealing)
- **The Gym**
(thegymgroup.com/find-a-gym/ealing)

Park Runs

Every Saturday at 9am, a free 5km run takes place in Gunnersbury Park, South Ealing, and starts near the coffee kiosk. For more information visit parkrun.org.uk/gunnersbury

Leeds

Gyms

- **Pure Gym Leeds**
(puregym.com/city/leeds)
- **The Gym Group Leeds Headrow**
(thegymgroup.com/find-a-gym/leeds-headrow)
- **CrossFit Leeds**
(crossfitleeds.com)
- **Nuffield Health**
(nuffieldhealth.com/gyms/leeds)

Park Runs

Every Saturday at 9am, a free 5km run takes place in Woodhouse Moor, after which the group grabs a coffee from The Birdcage. For more information visit parkrun.org.uk/woodhousemoor

Settling in

Open a UK Bank Account

This should be one of the first things you do after having registered for your course. You'll need money for rent, bills and sightseeing!

You will need:

- A valid passport and visa
- Proof of student status (a letter from MetFilm School – you can request this from admin@metfilmschool.ac.uk)
- Proof of address in the UK (an enrolment letter or a bill with your name on it)

You can use your overseas account however it is not practical as you cannot set up direct debits to pay your bills and you will be charged every time you take cash out. Also, if you are planning on getting a part-time job, you will need a UK bank account in order to get paid!

How to open a Bank Account?

Visit your local bank and apply in person

Local Banks - London, Ealing

- Santander, 4-8 Bond Street, W5 5AE
- Nationwide Building Society, 9 New Broadway, W5 5AW
- TSB Bank, 31 New Broadway, W5 5AW

Local Banks - Leeds

- HSBC, 33 Park Row, LS1 1LD

- Halifax, 32 Commercial Street, LS1 6EY
- TSB Bank, The Headrow, LS1 5HF

National Insurance Number

If you decide to work whilst you are in the UK, you will need a National Insurance (NI) Number. If you already have your Biometric Residence Permit, you might already have a NI number. If so, it will be printed on the back.

If you do not have a NI number, you must apply for one to work. You can only apply once you are in the UK.

You can find out how to apply for a NI number by visiting gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number

How to Register with a Doctor/ GP (General Practitioner)

When you arrive in the UK you should register with a local doctor as soon as you can. Do not wait until you are ill!

The National Health Service (NHS) is the UK's state health service. Doctors in England will normally accept students who are on courses on any duration onto their lists of NHS patients.

There are plenty of practices for you to register at in London and Leeds. You can also search for a practice depending on your requirements through the NHS website. This is helpful for finding a practice which allows for electronic prescriptions, or weekday evening appointments. To access this database, visit nhs.uk/service-search/other-services

Registering at a Medical Practice - London, Ealing

- Bramley Road Surgery, 2 Bramley Road, W5 4SS, Telephone: 020 8579 0165
- Florence Road Surgery, 26 Florence Road, W5 3TX, Telephone: 020 8567 2111

Registering at a Medical Practice - Leeds

- Leeds Student Medical Practice, 4 Blenheim Court, LS2 9AE, Telephone: 0113 295 4488
- Woodhouse Medical Practice, Cambridge Road, LS6 2SF, Telephone: 0113 221 3510

To register at most practices, you will need your Student ID card and a Student Status letter. You will need to complete a registration form and a simple health questionnaire, and return it in person to the surgery during consulting hours.

You should ask to be added to the list of National Health Service (NHS) patients. This means you will not have to pay a fee to visit the doctor.

If you have any preferences about who sees you (male, female or someone who speaks your language) then remember to mention this when registering and making appointments.

What is the UK Emergency Number?

The Emergency number for the Police, Fire or Paramedic service is 999. This number can be dialled free from any telephone.

For non-emergency medical issues, you can call the free, 24-hour NHS helpline for advice on 111.

The nearest hospital with an A&E department is:

- **London:** Ealing Hospital
- **Leeds:** Leeds General Infirmary

In a life-threatening emergency, always call 999. The paramedics will take you to the right A&E department for your condition, not necessarily to your local hospital.

Council Tax Exemption

Households in the UK ordinarily pay a monthly fee to the Local Borough Council to cover the cost of rubbish collection, road maintenance, etc. – this is Council Tax.

Households where everyone is a full-time student do not pay Council Tax. If you do get a bill, you can apply for an exemption by providing proof of your student status at gov.uk/apply-for-council-tax-discount

To be eligible for this exemption, your course must last at least one year, and involve 21 hours of study a week.

TV Licence

In the UK, each household needs a TV License to watch or record live TV programmes, including BBC iPlayer.

This could be on any device, including a TV, desktop, laptop, phone, games console, or DVD/VHS forecast.

If you do any of the above without a valid license, you risk prosecution and a maximum penalty of up to £1,000.

How much does a TV Licence cost?

A standard TV License costs £159, which you pay in one go, or in installments. If you don't need the license for a full 12 months, you can apply for a refund. For more information, visit tvlicensing.co.uk

Budgeting

Knowing what kinds of costs, you can expect will help you plan your finances. Going out and eating out, takeaways, accommodation and grocery shopping are the top things students spend more on than they thought they would before arriving at university.

Food Shopping – £30 per week

Don't rely on one supermarket for all your groceries ('express'

stores are often more expensive). Shop around to find the best deal for different items and buy non-branded items.

* Top Tip: plan your meals for the week ahead (you will save so much money!)

Water, gas and electricity – £50 per month

Utility bills will be included if you are renting through student accommodation- however living in a private house or flat-share you will need to budget for this!

Leisure and hobbies – £50 per month

Don't drop the activities and hobbies that make you happy like going to the gym, music or gaming; these can help you meet people who share the same interests, as well as cheer you up when university life gets a bit much.

Unidays offers students at university access to discounts on food, clothing and gym memberships. Visit myunidays.com

Groupon also provides a range of discounts on a range of services and products. Visit groupon.co.uk

Phone and Internet – £35 per month

Internet is usually included within the rent for student accommodation, but this may not be the case for private accommodation.

* Top Tip: Check how much data and minutes you actually use in a month via your phone provider – you might be surprised by how much you may be able to save by altering your plan!

Travel – £15–30 per week

The cost of travel will depend on where you live, and what activities you get up to during your time in your new city. Make sure you apply for a Student Photocard or Travelcard, as well as a Railcard if appropriate, so that you can take advantage of discounts available on travel tickets.



Employability

MetFilm Futures

At MetFilm School we concentrate on employability right from the start. You will have access to our dedicated careers advice department, MetFilm Futures, who focus on supporting you and ensuring you develop the skills needed to succeed in the industry.

Students and graduates of MetFilm School access the following:

- **Career Surgeries:** weekly, one-to-one career surgeries take place to advise students on their career paths.
- **Festival Support:** MetFilm Futures aim to teach and empower all students to navigate the festival and commercial worlds to maximise the opportunities for their videos and online content.
- **Masterclasses and Seminars:** Students are invited to masterclass and industry seminars with special guests across all disciplines who discuss their work, current issues and changes within the screen industries. Previous guests include: Sir Roger Deakins, Sarah Gavron, Sally Wainwright and Colin Trevorrow.
- **Competitions:** MetFilm Futures publishes and runs film competitions that give students the opportunity to produce content with awarded budgets and for clients.
- **Talent Pool:** MetFilm Futures connects students and graduates with upcoming opportunities including full-time jobs, freelance contracts, internships and placements.

Student Outreach Ambassador

Graduates have the opportunity to become a Student Outreach Ambassador, a team that delivers practical and engaging workshops on and off campus to a range of schools and colleges across the UK. You also represent MetFilm School at careers fairs and UCAS Events.

This programme will enhance your CV with a broad range of employment experience, earn a generous wage and work flexibly and develop a range of skills such as presenting, public speaking and delivering practical learning.



Finding part time work while studying

Finding a part-time job to supplement your student loan will not only give you more cash to play with, but its also great for your CV too.

1. Look for a part-time job before uni starts

Start searching for part-time positions online and applying for jobs before you start university to avoid peak job-hunting season.

2. Make sure your CV is up to date

It is worth having a few different tailored CVs if you're job hunting as employers can spot a generic CV from a mile away!

Top job searching tools

1. savethestudent.org/part-time-student-jobs
2. cv-library.co.uk
3. indeed.com

Finding jobs once graduated

1. Gain Experience

Gaining relevant experience is crucial for introducing you to the skills you need and help develop them further. Experience can come in a number of forms: internships, volunteering, work placements and work shadowing.

2. Network

'It's not what you know, it's who you know'. By making yourself and your ambitions known to those already in the industry, you'll be considered for future job vacancies or work experience opportunities. You can start networking from home and attend relevant events and career fairs. You can also connect with professionals and organisations through LinkedIn.

3. Prepare for the interview

Ensure you take time to prepare for an interview; this will help you speak clearly and confidently, leaving the interviewer with a great first impression. It is important to research the company, to plan answers to typical interview questions and think about the questions you would like to ask the employer.

Top job searching tools

1. prospects.ac.uk/graduate-jobs
2. [jobs boards](#)
3. [social media](#)



Student Support Services

MetFilm School wants you to have a fulfilling education experience, so the support we offer is aimed at helping you to reach your potential. Whether it is practical, personal or academic support that you need, help is available from the moment you arrive and easily accessible.

Student Advice Service

The Student Services team are here to help you navigate life at MetFilm School. If you need to speak to someone about registering with local facilities such as doctors, setting up a bank account, or if you need general advice on finances, funding, visa issues or your academic status, then we can help.

You can call, email or turn up in person for assistance during the School's regular opening hours. More information on how the team can help is provided during your induction periods.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Counselling

Our dedicated student Counselling Service offers a free and confidential service to any student who needs it – including individual counselling, group sessions and general wellbeing advice.

Sessions are delivered both online and in-person, giving students flexibility and choice about the way they access the service. These 50-minute sessions offer a confidential, safe space for you to discuss and share whatever is going on in your life at the moment – a place for you to explore how you can improve some of the immediate challenges affecting your schoolwork or general wellbeing.

You can book a session or simply ask for some advice by contacting counselling@metfilmschool.ac.uk

Togetherall

MetFilm School students can access Togetherall, our mental health and wellbeing portal. Togetherall is an anonymous community where members can reach out for support with their mental health. Access is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You will be able to access trained professionals, self-assessments and resources and a wide range of self-guided courses to complete at your own pace.

Your access to Togetherall becomes available during the Pre-Induction Programme, before you formally begin your studies at MetFilm School.



Disability Support

Disabled and Neurodiverse Support at MetFilm School

MetFilm School wants all students to have equal access to their course and the facilities. The Student Services team and its dedicated Disability & Wellbeing Adviser provide confidential, specialist advice to help address any physical, study or communication barriers students may find in the learning environment. Student Services work hand in hand with academic staff to support students with a wide range of disabilities including:

- neurodiversity and specified learning differences (such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD)
- mental health difficulties (such as depression, bi-polar disorder)
- long-term medical conditions (such as HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis)
- hidden disabilities (such as diabetes, asthma, epilepsy)
- sensory impairments (such as visual impairment, hearing impairment)
- mobility or physical impairments (such as paralysis, arthritis)

You can register with the team during enrolment, or at any time during your studies. Alternatively, you can book an appointment with a member of the team to discuss your circumstances and support arrangements.

We encourage students to disclose disability or support needs as early as possible, so the correct support can be set up to help you reach your full potential. If you have disclosed a disability or learning support need in your application, you will be asked for further information during the online enrolment process.

If you need adjustments for the induction and pre-induction periods, please let your admissions manager know or contact the school via the email address below.

Students can disclose or discuss a condition at any time during their study by contacting wellbeing@metfilmschool.ac.uk

I have confirmed by place on the course – what happens next?

If you have disclosed a disability or learning support need during your application, you will be contacted by the Disability & Wellbeing Adviser to discuss your circumstances. They will ask you to supply evidence of your condition and any supporting information that might be relevant. This information is used to agree a support plan for you. The information provided will be treated in confidence and used only for the purposes of providing the appropriate support to your circumstances.

These bespoke Individual Support Plans (ISPs) are developed in agreement with you, outlining recommended reasonable adjustments such as amended assessment arrangements, extensions to library book loans, note-takers or campus mobility support and the ability to request extensions to work if required.

MetFilm School Guides

For further information please download our other Guides:

- UK Accommodation Guide
- Berlin Accommodation Guide
- UK Finance & Funding Guide
- Berlin Finance & Funding Guide
- Berlin Student Support Guide
- UK International Students Guide
- Berlin International Students Guide

Please note the information provided in this guide referring to any external company, is provided as an overview only. All details and information are subject to change and may be impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. Please refer to individual websites for the latest information.

Please note this MetFilm School Guide is correct at time of publishing and is subject to change. Please visit the MetFilm School website for the latest information.

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