A STUDENT GUIDE TO

Newcastle
**Welcome to Newcastle**

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*The Rough Guide Best Places to Travel 2018*

**WhatUni Student Choice Awards 2017**
The cosmopolitan capital of the north east, Newcastle is one of the UK’s favourite student cities.

A vibrant city packed with culture, history and architectural beauty awaits if you choose to study here, and our city-centre campus is right at the heart of it. Combine this with our reputation as one of the most friendly and affordable cities in the UK, and Newcastle is the perfect place to study.
Newcastle is a small, beautiful city with a big personality, and one that’s famously friendly. This makes it easy to settle in once you arrive, and an ideal location for moving away from home...

A friendly welcome

Known affectionately as Geordies, the locals are famous for their warm, friendly and down-to-earth hospitality. Students make up 1 in 6 of our city’s diverse population and there are students from over 120 countries studying here. There’s a real sense of community and plenty of opportunities to make friends.

Close to coast and countryside

Newcastle has an enviable location that many don’t discover until they visit. The breathtaking Blue Flag beaches of Tynemouth are only a 25-minute Metro journey from the city centre. The historic city of Durham is an easy 10-minute train ride away, and the ancient castles, coast and countryside of Northumberland are also easily accessible.

Picture perfect

Visitors are often surprised by the beauty of Newcastle, where elegant Georgian buildings rub shoulders with stunning modern architecture. Down at the Quayside, iconic bridges and striking arts venues create Instagrammable views to share with friends and family.

In the heart of the city

Newcastle has all the benefits of a campus University in a city-centre location. Red-brick buildings sit alongside green spaces, providing places to relax in between lectures. At the same time, you’re only minutes away from city centre shops, restaurants and attractions.
Getting around

There’s only one thing you need to know about getting around in Newcastle – it’s easy! And it’s one of the many things students tell us they love about living here.

By bike

There’s an enthusiastic cycling community in Newcastle. You can hire a bike from The Cycle Hub on the Quayside and local charity Recyke Y’Bike offers second-hand bikes at reasonable prices.

By bus

Opposite campus is the main city bus station, Haymarket, with local buses taking you around the city and suburbs. Buses are also a great way to explore the region. Check out the UniRider bus pass for discounted student fares.

By foot

The city centre is compact, so everything you need is within walking distance.

Walking distance from campus in minutes (depending on how fast you walk!)

"I can walk to almost anywhere; to the campus, to the town, to the supermarkets, social places, to the shopping centre and the library – everything is nearby.”

Musfirah, Animal Science

By Metro

The Metro is Newcastle’s version of the London Underground, connecting the city to nearby suburbs, the coast, the railway station and the airport. There’s a Metro station (Haymarket) directly opposite our campus. Student discounts and travel passes make it an affordable way to get around.

I can walk to almost anywhere; to the campus, to the town, to the supermarkets, social places, to the shopping centre and the library – everything is nearby.”

Musfirah, Animal Science
The historic hub of the city, Grainger Town boasts architectural beauty alongside independent shops, cosy cafés, and, of course, vibrant nightlife.

**Grey Street and Grey’s Monument**
Often listed as one of the prettiest streets in the UK because of its classical buildings, Grey Street is home to lots of big-name bars and restaurants, alongside independent cafés, shops and galleries. At the top of this street is Grey’s Monument, a popular meeting place named after 1830’s Prime Minister, Charles Grey.

**Grainger Market**
Newcastle’s indoor market is hugely popular with students looking for a bargain. Traditional fruit and vegetable sellers sit alongside modern boutique stalls and a growing street food offering.

**Events**
The area around Grey Street and Grey’s Monument plays host to a range of events throughout the year, from food markets to seasonal festivals and outdoor cinema screenings.

**High Bridge Quarter**
Just off Grey Street, the cobbled streets of High Bridge are lined with independent shops, bars and home to The Stand comedy club.

“*I buy all of my fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and breads from the Grainger Market – it’s great value for money.*”
Ashni, Medicine and Surgery
Iconic bridges, two of the region’s best cultural venues and a renowned nightlife scene make the Quayside a much-loved attraction for students, locals and visitors alike.

**BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art**
The biggest gallery of its kind in the world, the BALTIC is a free gallery with a regularly updated programme of modern art exhibitions. The rooftop restaurant offers views over the city and the gift shop is worth a visit for quirky, art-inspired gifts.

**Dine near the Tyne**
Stylish restaurants, relaxed gastropubs, and cafés with a view… whatever your scene you can find it at the Quayside. The riverside setting makes it the perfect location for al fresco drinks with friends.

**Sage Gateshead Music Centre**
This £70 million centre is home to the Royal Northern Sinfonia and attracts musicians from around the globe. Entrance to the building itself is free and there are regular free performances in their open space.

**Stroll through the Quayside Sunday Market**
Head to the weekly Quayside Market to browse handcrafted goods, buy local produce and sample delicious street food.

**TOP TIP:** Visit the Quayside between April and September to enjoy Quayside Seaside, a pop-up beach featuring deckchairs, palm trees, a volleyball court and beach huts.
You’re never far from a green space in Newcastle. Our parks are the perfect place to escape from the hustle and bustle of the city centre. In fact, two of our largest parks are just a short walk from the campus.

**Leazes Park**
Only five minutes’ walk from campus, Leazes Park is a great place for lunch in between lectures or a stroll around the boating lake.

**Exhibition Park**
On the other side of campus you’ll find Exhibition Park, which has a café, all-weather sports courts, a boating lake, and even a microbrewery on site that holds regular live music and food events!

**Jesmond Dene**
Just a few minutes’ bus ride from the city centre, Jesmond Dene is the perfect location for a picnic with friends in the summer or a walk on a crisp winter’s day.

**Heaton and Armstrong Parks**
The neighbouring Heaton and Armstrong Parks are in the residential area of Heaton, just over a mile from the city centre. With well-connected Metro and bus links, they are popular with both students and locals. There’s a great little Italian restaurant in Heaton Park and an annual festival, which brings together the local community.

**The University’s Old Quadrangle**
Our own Old Quadrangle is a pretty green space in the heart of our Green Flag award-winning campus. You’ll see lots of students and staff enjoying their lunch break in beautiful surroundings!

**TOP TIP:** Saltwell Park in Gateshead hosts the popular after-dark arts event Enchanted Parks every December, but be quick as tickets sell out fast!
Newcastle is close to the coastline and students here make the most of it! Jump on the Metro to award-winning Blue Flag beaches and enjoy attractions that are popular all year round.

**Tynemouth**
Longsands is the longest beach in Tynemouth. Hire a board and take surf lessons, visit one of the beach-front cafés or picnic on the busy beach in the summer.
King Edwards’ Bay is a more secluded beach, overlooked by the ancient Tynemouth Priory. Watch the sun go down at Riley’s Fish Shack, for a truly memorable dining experience. A short stroll from the beach, the town centre has a great choice of cafés, bars and independent shops.

**Cullercoats**
Next to Tynemouth, Cullercoats Bay is a popular beach for watersports such as kayaking and paddleboarding, and has some cosy independent cafés. It’s also the location of the University’s Dove Marine Laboratory.

**Whitley Bay**
Another of the region’s Blue Flag beaches can be found at Whitley Bay, which is the place to go for some classic British seaside fun – amusements, fish and chips, ice cream and a stroll along the promenade.

**TOP TIP:** Within Tynemouth’s Victorian Metro station there’s a busy weekend market with stalls offering street food, gifts, and handcrafted items.
Ouseburn Valley is the beating heart of creativity in the city, where artists’ studios, galleries and cultural venues sit side by side, giving the area a vibrancy that makes it an interesting place to visit.

**Biscuit Factory**
The UK’s largest contemporary commercial art gallery, the Biscuit Factory is testament to the city’s vibrant arts and culture scene. Offering free entry, seasonal exhibitions, creative workshops and an award-winning restaurant, the Biscuit Factory is not to be missed.

**Live Music**
The Ouseburn Valley is home to a thriving live music scene, with venues such as The Cluny, Tyne Bar, and the Cumberland Arms providing a platform for local artists, poets and other performers.

**Cycle Hub**
This bike-friendly, independent café offers homemade food, bike hire and a fully equipped workshop for bike services and repairs. Its location on the Sustrans 72 cycle route on the banks of the Tyne makes the Cycle Hub the perfect place for a well-earned drink or snack.

**Markets and festivals**
Ouseburn is home to a lively programme of events throughout the year. These range from Open Studios events where the area’s studio spaces open their doors to the public, to a music festival dedicated to showcasing emerging artists.

**TOP TIP:**
Ouseburn Farm is a working farm in the city, where you can see a variety of animals for free.
Just a two-minute Metro ride from the city centre, the suburb of Jesmond is very popular with students. Known for its leafy streets with a variety of cafés, bars and restaurants, it’s also home to the green oasis of Jesmond Dene.

Going out
Osborne Road offers a popular alternative to the city centre for a night out, with many of the bars and restaurants offering special deals for students. Outdoor, canopied seating areas make it a popular place to sit outside and soak up the lively atmosphere during the warmer months.

Café culture
Jesmond’s discerning selection of bistro and cafés are the perfect place to relax, meet friends and indulge in something sweet.

Shop local
The streets of Acorn Road and Brentwood Avenue offer everything from grocery shopping, to hair salons and independent boutiques.

Jesmond Dene
A haven from the hustle and bustle of the city, Jesmond Dene is a beautiful wooded valley that is perfect for walking, cycling or enjoying a picnic on a sunny day. The monthly market on Jesmond Dene’s Armstrong Bridge offers food from the region’s best local producers and chefs. Coinciding with the food market is a monthly art, design and craft market in the Dene itself.

“Venture out of the city centre into places like Jesmond, there’s a lot of quirky little shops and places to eat and drink that are worth discovering!” Becky, History and Politics
Castles and countryside

While there’s plenty to keep you busy in the city, the wider north east region is full of history, charming market towns, castles and breathtaking countryside – perfect destinations for a day trip when you need a break from study.

Hadrian’s Wall and Roman towns
Hadrian’s Wall is the most important and substantial of Roman remains in Britain, set against a magnificent landscape. Follow one of the trails to see the remains of forts, towers and bridges and get a glimpse into life in Roman Britain. Visit the nearby ancient town of Hexham and village of Corbridge, with their cosy country pubs, independent boutique shops and cafés.

Castles and coastline
The neighbouring county of Northumberland boasts more castles than any other county in England. Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh and Lindisfarne Castles hug the coastline, creating spectacular scenes, while Alnwick Castle (aka Hogwarts) proves very popular with Harry Potter fans.

Northumberland National Park
Home to England’s cleanest rivers, clearest air and darkest skies, Northumberland National Park is a playground for every outdoor activity imaginable, from rock climbing and mountain biking to saddling up on a horse.

Durham
The city of Durham, with its quaint cobbled streets, UNESCO World Heritage castle and cathedral, is just a 15-minute train journey from Newcastle city centre.
Newcastle is a city packed with culture, from world-class attractions and venues, to a lively programme of festivals and events throughout the year. There’s even a gallery and theatre on campus.

**Cinema**

The beautiful, independent **Tyneside Cinema** has a well-deserved cult following, showing everything from world cinema to independent and mainstream films. For big blockbusters, head to **Cineworld** in The Gate or see films in 3D IMAX at the Odeon at the nearby **Metrocentre**. Hop on the Metro to Whitley Bay for a unique viewing experience at the independent **Jam Jar Cinema**.

**Theatre**

The gorgeous Georgian **Theatre Royal** hosts everything from West End musicals to Royal Shakespeare Company performances. See work by up-and-coming local artists at the **LIVE Theatre** and you’ll find bold productions and a raft of participatory work at **Northern Stage**, which is right here on campus.
Comedy
The Metro Radio Arena and City Hall are the places to go for big-name comedians. You can see up-and-coming talent at The Stand comedy club in the heart of the city. For something a bit different, head to The Cumberland Arms in Ouseburn, home of improv-comedy group The Suggestibles.

Festivals
There’s always something going on in Newcastle and the region. Indulge in imaginative dishes at the EAT! FESTIVAL, see critically acclaimed acts in breathtaking surroundings at the Mouth of the Tyne Festival, or sample some after-hours culture at The Late Shows. Newcastle Mela celebrates South Asian cultures with music, food and dance in an annual event at Exhibition Park.

Art
Immerse yourself in international modern art at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, an impressive building on the banks of the River Tyne. See photography at the Side Gallery, and a mix of historic and contemporary art at the Laing Art Gallery. In the Ouseburn Valley you’ll find The Biscuit Factory, the UK’s largest independent art, craft and design gallery. Right here on campus, the Hatton gallery recently re-opened after a £3.8 million redevelopment and houses a diverse collection of works.

Museums
See natural history exhibits for free at the Great North Museum: Hancock, right next to campus, see science brought to life at the Discovery Museum or check out the state-of-the-art planetarium at the International Centre for Life. Venture further to Durham and step back in time at Beamish, an open-air museum spread over several acres.

Music
Sage Gateshead is a landmark music venue on the Quayside, bringing world-class artists and musicians to the north east. You’ll find famous names performing at the Metro Radio Arena, the O2 Academy and our own Students’ Union, while more intimate venues like The Cluny showcase local artists.
Whether you want to grab a quick lunch or celebrate a special occasion, there are so many places to eat in Newcastle, your only problem will be choosing where to go. As well as the familiar names that you’d expect in any major city, there are lots of local gems. Here’s just a few student favourites…

Street food

Newcastle has an exciting mix of independent vendors offering street food from around the globe. You’ll find some of them at the Grainger Market in the city centre, open 6 days a week. The Quayside Market is held every Sunday, tempting you with everything from chicken katsu curry to churros, and there are regular street food events across the city.

On the go

Frankie and Tony’s Sandwich Bar has a well-deserved reputation as one of the city’s best deli’s, with regular queues outside. For something a bit spicier, head across the road to Zapatista, a much-loved Mexican burrito bar. Eat4Less offers cheap lunch options, and of course, you’re never far from a Greggs! If you want to sample a local independent bakery, look no further than Pink Lane Bakery.
Vegetarian and vegan
Many independent restaurants in the city cater generously for vegetarians and vegans, with Indian restaurants like Dabbawal and Ury; Italian restaurants such as The Herb Garden and Pani’s Café Bar to name just a few. Aside from this, there’s a growing number of exclusively vegan and vegetarian restaurants, including the north east’s only American-style vegan diner, Grumpy Panda, in nearby Gateshead and Bohemian near the Newcastle train station.

For a full list of places to eat in the city and beyond, visit www.newcastlegateshead.com/food-and-drink

Café culture
Next to campus, Quilliam Brothers’ Teahouse has over 60 types of loose-leaf tea and is always busy at lunchtimes. The Tyneside Bar Café at the Tyneside Cinema and Olive and Bean in Grainger Town are popular choices for breakfasts, brunches and lunches with friends. There are no less than three cafés in the city where you can enjoy a coffee in the company of a feline or canine friend – CatPawCino, Mog on the Tyne and Dog and Scone provide an antidote when you’re missing your pet at home.

Dining out
Fat Hippo is the city’s go-to burger joint, with restaurants in the city-centre and nearby Jesmond – you’ll also find their fleet of vans at food events across the region. Combine American eats with bowling, ping pong and even karaoke at Lane 7, the city’s boutique bowling experience.

Francesca’s in Jesmond is an all-time student favourite for Italian food. For a really special occasion, dine at the city’s oldest restaurant, Blackfriars, enjoy rooftop views of the Quayside at Six or splash out at Michelin star House of Tides.

International
Newcastle has a long and growing list of places offering food from around the world. The city’s Chinatown is a short walk from our campus, and there are lots of places offering authentic international flavours. Red Mezze (Turkish), Hana Hana (Japanese) and Zaap Thai are just a few of the favourites. If you can’t decide which to try, get a taste of them all at Za Za Bazaar world buffet.
Newcastle’s reputation for nightlife is unparalleled, and while there are plenty of places to party until the early hours, there are just as many to catch up with friends or see a band. With close to 200 venues, Newcastle has plenty of choice, and our compact city means you don’t have to go far to be at the centre of the action.

Central Station
If you’re looking for a more laid-back scene, the pubs around Central Station are ideal for whiling away the hours chatting with friends. The Forth and Town Wall offer cosy corners and traditional pub food. Tucked behind Central Station, The Telegraph has a roof terrace that proves very popular when the sun shines.

Collingwood Street
Often referred to as the ‘Diamond Strip’, close to Newcastle’s Central Station, Collingwood Street is a favourite destination for a night out. Florita’s Miami Bar and Tropical Garden, House of Smith, Madame Koo are just a few of the bars you’ll find here. If you’re not ready to go home, head to The Cut nightclub – a student favourite!
The Gate
The Gate is your one-stop venue for a night out, with restaurants, bars, nightclubs, a 16-screen cinema and a casino – all under one roof! New venues including Burger join favourites such as Nando’s, Za Za Bazaar, TGI Fridays and Tiger Tiger offering regular deals for students.

LGBT+ scene
The city’s lively LGBT+ nightlife scene is focused around the area near the train station, affectionately known as the ‘Pink Triangle’. Venues like Powerhouse, Switch and The Yard are some of the most popular. The University’s LGBT Society also runs frequent social events and discussions.

Ouseburn
If any of Newcastle’s areas could be described as ‘hipster’, Ouseburn would be it. Live music is popular here and venues like The Cluny, The Tyne and Ernest provide a stage for a variety of artists, from musicians to poets and improv comedians. Visit one of Ouseburn’s cultural venues at night during the annual Late Shows, a free late-night culture crawl.

Grainger Town
At the heart of the city, the Monument and Grey Street area is home to a fantastic mix of bars and cafes, set amidst a mix of classical and modern architecture. Enjoy views of Grey’s Monument from The Botanist’s roof terrace or soak up the atmosphere in one of the area’s smaller independent venues.

The Quayside and Dean Street
Newcastle’s Quayside has long been a destination for a night out. Head down Dean Street towards the Quayside and you’ll find contemporary, late-night bars like The Glass House, Livello and Aveika. On the Quayside itself, there are plenty of pubs brimming with character, including Redhouse and The Bridge Tavern. Riverside hosts popular club nights at weekends and live music throughout the week.
High-street names, boutique brands, a big city-centre mall and bustling street markets make Newcastle one of the best shopping destinations in the north of England.

**Markets**

Newcastle’s exciting variety of markets run throughout the year at both indoor and outdoor venues. Pick up fresh fruit and vegetables for reasonable prices at the **Grainger Market**, and enjoy street food and pick up handmade items at the **Quayside** and **Jesmond** markets. There are also international and specialist seasonal markets around the **Grey’s Monument** at various times throughout the year.

**Independent shopping**

If you’re looking for something a bit different, head to the cobbled streets of High Bridge for the perfect mix of alternative clothing, gift and vinyl shops. Other independent finds across the city include **Leaf Clothing**, **UpSide Down Presents**, and **END Clothing**.
Global food stores
Newcastle’s range of global food stores means you don’t have to worry about missing food from home. Student favourites include Back Home International, HiYou Oriental Food Emporium and Newcastle Halal Food Store. Seasonal markets, including the International Food Festival and the Christmas Market offer you the chance to sample foods from all over the world in one place.

Metrocentre
Europe’s largest shopping and leisure complex is just an 8-minute train journey or 15-minute bus ride from the city. With over 340 shops and restaurants, an Odeon IMAX cinema and an entertainment centre with bowling, it’s the perfect escape on a rainy day.

Northumberland Street
Home to high-street names such as Fenwick, H&M, Primark, and OUTFIT, Northumberland Street is home to the big-name brands. Its location, two minutes from campus, means you can indulge in some retail therapy between lectures.

Eldon Square
A short walk from the campus you’ll find Eldon Square, one of the UK’s largest city-centre malls. With over 150 shops, it’s the go-to place for big-name brands including John Lewis, Topshop, Hollister, Apple, and Debenhams. Don’t miss Eldon Square’s dedicated student nights, where you can grab extra discounts and catch some live entertainment.
Newcastle United, Newcastle Eagles, Newcastle Falcons and the Great North Run... sport is integral to this passionate city. There’s so much on offer in the city centre and surrounding region, whether you want to watch or take part.

Spectator sports

St James’ Park is at the heart of this sporting city. This 52,000-capacity stadium is home to Newcastle United Football Club. When the home team scores the whole city hears the crowd roar.

If basketball is more your thing, Newcastle Eagles are the most successful team in the history of the British Basketball League with 24 trophies in the last 13 years. Meanwhile, Newcastle Falcons play top-flight rugby union at nearby Kingston Park.

Gateshead International Stadium regularly hosts the best in international athletics and for cricket fans, Durham CCC hosts both county and international cricket, just a 10-minute train journey from Newcastle.

Take part

One of the world’s largest races, the Great North Run welcomes athletes and fun runners from across the globe every year, attracted by the famous sights, friendly crowds and the iconic Red Arrows flypast.

There are plenty of opportunities to take part in sport too. The city and surrounding region are full of great cycling routes for all levels, from beginner to advanced. There are also green spaces around the city, perfect for walking, running, and impromptu games of footie.

A short Metro ride away, the beaches of Tynemouth have gained a national reputation for surfing. The neighbouring county of Northumberland offers wild landscapes that are perfect for mountain biking and rock climbing.
Getting here

Newcastle is a well connected city, so wherever you live, we’re closer than you think!

BY TRAIN

Newcastle’s train station is right in the city centre, so once you get off at Newcastle, you’re never far from home...

- Edinburgh – 1 hour 30 minutes
- Leeds – 1 hour 25 minutes
- Manchester – 2 hours 35 minutes
- London – 2 hours 55 minutes
- Birmingham – 2 hours 50 minutes

BY PLANE

Newcastle International Airport has flights to over 100 destinations worldwide, including international hubs Paris, Amsterdam and Dubai. Lots of UK flights also land at Newcastle. You can fly here in no time and hop on the Metro for the 25-minute trip to the city centre.

Find out more...

Watch our films to discover what students love about the city and see some of the hidden gems:
www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle/city

Take a virtual tour:
www.ncl.ac.uk/tour/city

Visit the tourism information website:
www.newcastlegateshead.com

*I thought it would be a big deal to move to another city away from family, but when I came to visit I instantly fell in love with the city.*

Victoria, Biology

# LOVE Newcastle

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