

STAYING SAFE

A Few Warnings

Drinking alcohol:

You must be over the age of eighteen (18) to buy alcoholic drinks or to drink them on licensed premises (pubs, wine bars etc). If you look under 25, people will ask you for ID and may not serve you alcohol.

Age restrictions and related sales:

There are limitations to what you can buy in the UK. Please see the table below for information about age restrictions:

Product	Age
Alcohol	18
Confectionary containing alcohol	16
Party Poppers	16
Lighter Fuel	18
Lottery Tickets	16
Petrol	16
Driving	17
Cigarettes and Tobacco	18
Fireworks and Sparklers	18
Films, DVDs, CDs, Video/Computer Games	12,15,18
Solvents	18
Knives	18
Aerosol Paints	16

Drugs:

The penalties for illegal drug use depend on the type of drug and the amount. For information on which drugs are illegal in the UK and the penalties, please see here:

<https://www.gov.uk/penalties-drug-possession-dealing>

Don't carry, buy or sell drugs!

Hitch-Hiking:

The school strongly recommends that students do not hitch-hike during their stay in the UK.

Motoring Offences:

Foreign drivers must know and follow the British Highway Code. The most serious driving offences include driving after consuming alcohol, reckless driving and driving without insurance. Please remember that in the UK you must drive on the left-hand side of the road. You can read the British Highway Code here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

Possession of offensive weapons:

It is illegal to carry offensive weapons (e.g. guns, knives) in a public place, even for defensive purposes.

Safety:

We advise you not to carry large amounts of cash. Make sure you keep your valuables secure at all times when walking around London, as pick-pockets operate in central London. At night we advise that you walk in well-lit, busy areas.

Shop-Lifting:

Laws against stealing from shops are always strictly enforced.

Arrest:

If police arrest you during your stay, please call the school emergency number. You have the right to be represented and you cannot be held without charge for more than 48 hours unless there is an anti-terrorism order.

PLEASE TAKE CARE - DURING YOUR STAY

Important tips

- Please protect your pin numbers while withdrawing your money from the ATM machines.
- Please do not walk alone at night time. If you have to, then please keep your belongings like mobile phones out of sight.
- Please make sure that you inform your room partners or friends before going out.
- Please do not deal with any people posing as agents or banks, money exchange companies or travel guides unless you are 100% sure they are genuine. Remember, if you're not sure, call us to get advice. If you are exchanging money, only go to licensed agents that can be found on the high streets.
- If you are not sure, remember to check the identity of anyone who asks for your money, personal information such as date of birth, bank card number or address. In the UK, identity theft is a problem and we advise you to keep your details safe and not to give them to people you don't know.
- Please don't get into any person's car who says they are a mini cab driver and only use the ones that have been pre-booked or black cabs.
- Be aware of pickpockets in crowded places particularly if others are causing a distraction.
- Please have a safe stay and enjoy your trip to London. Feel free to ask any questions. Remember, all the staff members at UKCE London are here for your service.