



STUDENTS' UNION
AT BOURNEMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

&

AUBSU

————— present —————

YOUR STUDENT SURVIVAL GUIDE

WELCOME



Welcome to your student survival guide. Our gift to you - just a few easy steps to making your way through this year at uni.

We are Chloe and Dan, the Students' Union Presidents at SUBU and AUBSU.

We've put this little book together for you to give you some tips and tricks on how to get through this year, from getting on with your housemates and neighbours, to paying bills and generally saving some money!

We've both had 3 years at uni ourselves and these are just a few things we have picked up along the way. Give it a read and keep hold of it - it might come in handy throughout the year, and if there are any problems, feel free to come and see us in either of our offices in AUBSU or SUBU.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Check the inventory carefully** and make sure that everything in the house or flat (i.e. furniture) is accounted for. Also check that everything your landlord or agent have stated in the inventory is present, in the correct place and that any scratches and marks etc are noted down. If you don't state everything then you might be charged at the end of the year for damage you didn't cause! If there is no inventory then keep asking, or make your own and send it to your landlord!
- ☐ **Take photos of EVERYTHING** and keep them on record with a date - this is especially true for any stains/damage/mould. Again, you might need the photos at the end of the year to ensure that you don't pay for any damage you didn't cause. This might be something you send over to your landlord or agent at the beginning of the contract - don't leave it too late!
- ☐ **Change your address with your bank**, university, Student Finance and anyone else you can think of if you want your mail sent to your term time address! Don't be scared to knock on the door of your old house if you feel that you might have mail that hasn't been redirected yet.
- ☐ **Record the gas and electricity readings** (and water if it's on a meter).
- ☐ **Make a note of your bin day** (see page 3/4)- including if there are separate days for rubbish, recycling and food waste!
- ☐ **Test your smoke alarm regularly**, if you don't have one, get onto your landlord about it, this is a legal requirement of them if you live with 3 or more people in a shared house.
- ☐ **Double check** that you have details of your Deposit Protection Scheme and that there is a Gas Safety Certificate in the property (or you have been shown a copy).
- ☐ **Introduce yourself to your neighbours**; they will appreciate it, especially if you think you might be a noisy house!

GETTING ON WITH YOUR HOUSEMATES

5 QUICK STEPS TO A HAPPY HOME

1. **Agree on simple ground rules** about cleaning and general jobs around the home.
2. **Set up how bills will be paid** each month, ensuring everyone contributes fairly.
3. **Pick your rooms fairly**, if you can't decide, then pick them out of a hat.
4. **Agree on what is acceptable when it comes to contributing and sharing** your stuff, that includes anything from food to utensils, to shower gel and toilet roll.
5. **Try to accommodate for your housemates**, that includes being accepting of dietary requirements, religious beliefs, even down to the times people go to bed or how clean people would like the house to be.



KEEPING THE HOUSE CLEAN

Keeping the house nice and clean is not only important for a friendly living space, it's also important to ensure that you get your deposits back from the Deposit Protection Scheme (DPS) at the end of the year. It's a lot of money to lose out on and we want to help make sure you get this back. **Remember that if you damage anything, it will need to be replaced or fixed by the end of the year or you will be charged for it!**

BINS

Bin days vary from place to place.

To find out the day and times your bins are collected, including recycling collection and food waste visit the council's website here:

www.bournemouth.gov.uk/recycling

This will also explain what you can and can't recycle.

- **Remember to put your bins out** no later than 7am that morning and no earlier than 7pm the night before!
- **If you do require extra or bigger bins**, you can ask your landlord to organise this with the council, who will happily give them to you.
- **When it comes to your clothes etc, there are loads of charity shops** around who will happily take what you don't want anymore, and we will also be arranging 'swap shops' and end of year community clear outs - so keep an eye out for more information!
- **AUB have some British Red Cross clothes bins on campus** which everyone is welcome to use.

MY BIN DAY IS:

MY RECYCLING DAY IS:

MY FOOD WASTE DAY IS:

GETTING ON WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Whether it's another group of students, or a family, getting to know your neighbours will help to make this year as easy as possible. It's not as scary as it looks - just knock on their door and introduce yourself! If they're other students - it could be more people to hang out with this year and if you live near a family, it's really important to let them know who you are so that you make a good impression and get off to a good start!

KEEPING QUIET

At uni, it's really easy to get wrapped up in your own student 'bubble' and forget that regular people with families and jobs live around you! We're not here to tell you not to have fun, but just remember to be considerate when it comes to making noise. It might sound dramatic, but if you live next door to people who are elderly, with young children, or those who need to be up early every morning for work - what you think is harmless fun might be seriously impacting on their lives.

If you're having pre-drinks or a party, give your neighbours a heads up a couple of days beforehand and check that they're okay with it. We've had loads of residents in Winton tell us that this would have made such a difference to them!

And when it gets too late, or when you get back from a night out, just keep the volume down as much as you can!

Also, when you're leaving pre-drinks or getting home from a night out, remember not to shout or to slam taxi doors. Nearly everyone around you will probably be in bed and won't want to be woken up!

If you make too much noise, Environmental Health can come straight to where you are and issue you with a Noise Abatement Notice, and if you're a BU student - this will result in the university fining you or issuing you with community service! **So just remember not to get too carried away!**



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

It's pretty obvious to burglars which the student houses are and it makes you an **easy target**. Burglaries not only cost you money, but they can take an emotional toll on you and can impact you hugely if something really valuable or sentimental is to get stolen.

- Keep windows and doors closed and locked when you are out or in another room - burglars aren't always put off if you are still in the house!
- Ask to have your 'student lets' sign taken down by your estate agent - it advertises that you're a house with several laptops, iPads etc and it doesn't need to be there!
- Keep your valuables out of sight where you can and register them at www.immobilise.com, and purchase Contents Insurance with Endsleigh at www.endsleigh.co.uk.
- Get your bike tagged with the police on campus (probably at the back entrance of BU by the roundabout) on the 13th/14th October and your valuables security marked on the 21st and 22nd.

So always remember to Lock It or Lose It!



KEEPING SAFE

On a night out, stick with your friends and always look out for each other!

Never use an unlicensed taxi, calling in advance is always a good idea. Don't just jump into the first taxi you see, it could be dangerous!

Before you go out for the night, remember your keys, money and phone - and how will you get home?



MONEY SAVING ADVICE

1. **Remember to budget even at the start of term** - that student loan might look like a lot at the beginning - but it has to last you a long time and you don't want to be skint by Christmas!
2. **If you're from BU, pick up an NUS card from the SUBU office on Talbot Campus, or if you're from AUB you will automatically get one for free** if you're a first year starting this year. Make the most of student discounts - even shops like the Co-op do 10% off of your food shopping. These small savings will make a big difference in the long run.
3. **Share shopping trips and cook meals together** - it will save you both fuel if you drive and money on your groceries.
4. **Earn yourself discounts this year** at The Old Fire Station, Dylan's Kitchen & Bar and The Loft by registering with 'iSUBU rewards' launching this year - search 'SUBU Rewards on Facebook' or look out for more information!
5. **Shop around for your food!** Lidl is probably your cheapest supermarket, followed closely by ASDA - but remember to consider greengrocers or the farmers market every month in Winton for cheap deals and more locally sourced produce.



HERE TO HELP

COMMUNITY WARDENS

Between AUBSU and SUBU, we have **13 community wardens this year**, who are there to improve the relationships between students and the local residents in Winton. They might have even be the ones who delivered this guide to you! The community wardens are there to speak to you about issues that you or the residents might have as well as giving you any information that they think is relevant about all things community based.

If you see them or if they knock on your door, then feel free to ask them about any queries you might have to do with your house, your local area or your neighbours and they should be able to guide you in the right direction!

AUBSU

AUB provide student support through **Student Services**. This includes all matters related to university life - from personal problems to family and relationship related issues, to financial advice and housing support.

As well as this, Student Services offer academic support for any issues you might face during your studies at AUB. That could be anything from essay struggles, extra support for writing applications and CVs, as well as a great support network for students who struggle with dyslexia or any other learning disabilities.

SUBU ADVICE

As you may or may not know, SUBU offer a **free, independent and confidential advice service**. If you have any issues this year - be it budgeting and money worries, problems with the condition of your house, your landlord or your estate agent, or more personal concerns and academic issues- be sure to contact them! You can find them in the SUBU office above Dylan's bar on Talbot campus or on the ground floor of Bournemouth House at Lansdowne.

MOVE'M

Move'm are a student housing review site, where you can review and rate **your student accommodation**. They give great advice about the do's and don'ts of renting a property, as well as which houses and estate agents to avoid. Leaving a review with them gives you the chance to reward good landlords, and to leave a mark on the reputation of bad ones.



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USEFUL CONTACTS

Be sure to fill these out with contact details for all your providers.

My Landlord/letting agent:

My Gas Company:

My Electricity Company:

My Water Company:

My TV Company:

Bournemouth Council Switchboard:
01202 451451

SUBU:
01202 965765

AUB SU:
01202 363345

SUBU Advice:
01202 965779
www.subu.org.uk/advice

Move'm:
www.movem.co.uk
www.facebook.com/MovemUK

In association with:
Endsleigh Insurance
www.endsleigh.co.uk

