



IT'S YOUR STUDENTS' UNION HERE.
ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES.



HELLO

SRH

WELCOME TO ROYAL HOLLOWAY STUDENTS' UNION



@SURHUL

WHAM BAM INSTAGRAM. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND LOOK OUT FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAILS.

Hello.

Starting university can be a bit scary at the best of times, let alone in the middle of a global pandemic. Let's face it, this isn't how you envisaged your higher education journey starting, but we're here to tell you that you've got every reason to be positive about the year ahead!

You're about to embark on an amazing journey. You'll meet your best friend for life, subsequently fall out with them over an unwashed pan, before making up over pizza. You'll discover talents you never knew you had, and you'll experience the joy of living and studying on an absolutely stunning campus – we challenge anyone to find a more Instagram-worthy spot than Founder's Quads on a glorious summer's day.

As your Students' Union we'll be here to help you along the way, fuelling your studies with food and drink in Tommy's Kitchen and The Packhorse, giving you helpful advice on that niggling academic issue you have, and laying on great events to keep you entertained away from your studies.

This guide is a quick run through of what to expect from us this year and it gives you some pointers on how to successfully navigate Freshers' Festival and beyond.

There's no shying away from the fact this is going to be a challenging year for us all, but together we will make sure it's a memorable one for all the right reasons.

So sit back, grab yourself a brew, and take a read of what we have in store for you.

- 04 WHO WE ARE.
- 06 REPRESENTING YOUR ACADEMIC INTERESTS.
- 07 OUR ADVICE CENTRE.
- 08 SPORT.
- 09 SOCIETIES & MEDIA.
- 10 GET YOUR VOICE HEARD.
- 12 OUR VENUES.
- 15 FRESHERS' FESTIVAL.

We're here to make student life better.

The Students' Union exists for one purpose – to make student life better at Royal Holloway. Upon enrolling at the College you automatically become a member, and we'll represent you on both a local and national level.

But what exactly does that mean? Well, think of the Students' Union as that place that always has your back. Independent from the University, we're here to champion student interests. This means we can fight for your rights and ensure you are always getting your voice heard.

Representation is just one slice of the pie when it comes to what we're about. We're also responsible for running all the clubs and societies on campus ensuring there's always an outlet for your passions, while we cook up a mean burger in our bars (there's more on our venues later on).

Away from the bar, we run an Advice Centre that offers confidential, impartial advice, a housing platform to help you find your next student pad, tons of free events with our Give It A Go programme, and loads more!

We can't wait for you to get involved. See you in September (either virtually or in person) when the fun begins!

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK](https://su.rhul.ac.uk)

Want to lead your Students' Union?

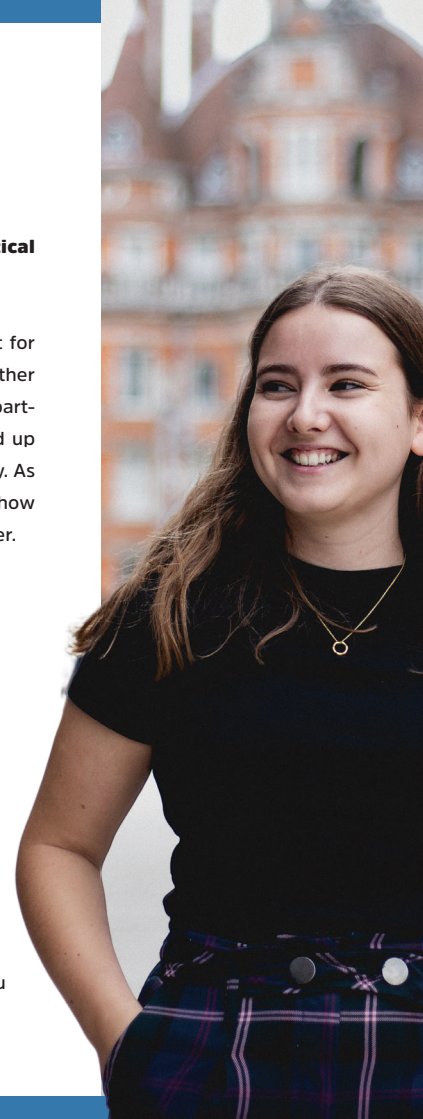
Every year we elect a team of full-time Sabbatical Officers (like Kate on the right) who lead the SU.

Any student can become an Officer so keep an eye out for our SU Elections opening at the end of Term One. Whether you're after a paid full-time Sabbatical Officer role or part-time voluntary trustee role, this is your chance to stand up and lead on issues that really matter to the student body. As a democratic organisation, we believe that elections show the best of what we can achieve when we work together.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ELECTIONS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/elections)

Campaigning.

Students like yourself direct the issues we campaign on and we're not afraid to tackle complex pieces of policy in order to improve students' rights. Alongside this, our student groups lead the way on liberation campaigns such as Disability, LGBT+, Women's, and Black History months. See how you can change the world around you online, or have a chat with one of the Officers.



Kate Roberts.

>> **PRESIDENT**

Hi everyone! I'm Kate - your Students' Union President. My role is to represent your views to the University and lobby for changes to improve student life at Royal Holloway. I also play a key role in the Students' Union's governance, overseeing many of the things that go on here at the SU.

This year, I'll be focusing on engagement and ensuring you feel represented by your SU and feel a part of what we do.

I'll also be working on various campaigns, including driving a sustainability agenda, tackling the unfair nature of student housing, and being bolder in our approach to inclusivity.

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

president@su.rhul.ac.uk

Alissa Chohan.

>> VP EDUCATION

Hi, I'm Alissa, your Vice President Education! One of my key roles is to represent, communicate and support your academic interests and wellbeing.

Through maintaining a strong relationship with academic reps, advocating positive changes in College meetings, and leading my own campaigns, I endeavour to create positive change for all students.

I intend to do this by increasing the number of online resources, making them as accessible and interactive as possible, continuing to tackle the BAME attainment gap, and improve the educational experience of those struggling with their mental and physical wellbeing.

If you have any questions, or want to be involved in academic representation, please get in touch.

vpeducation@su.rhul.ac.uk



Representing your academic interests.

It'd be very easy to think the Students' Union is here to purely focus on the social side of campus life, but that's only half of the story.

At the end of the day you're here to get a degree and one of our core goals is making sure that this happens. That's why we run what's known as the academic rep system. Yes, it's not quite as sexy as a night out at The Packhorse but this can be the difference between a first or second class degree. That's because the system is made up of a mix of individuals who represent you and your course.

Course reps work on ensuring your degree programme is everything you expected it to be, department reps look at department-wide changes, school reps work across several departments to instigate change, while the VP Education works across the wider College.

As a new student you can volunteer to be the course rep for your chosen degree programme, giving you the chance to directly influence what happens on your course and give a voice to your peers.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ACADEMICREPS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/academicreps)

Our Advice Centre is confidential, accessible and free.

To support your wellbeing, we also run our own Advice Centre, with dedicated support for academic and housing issues. This service is independent from the College, so it's the perfect place for confidential advice about your course. No matter whether you're studying on campus or from home, you'll be able to access support online through email and virtual appointments. We've also launched our brand new Advice Centre hub on the website, giving you instant digital access to support and useful resources.

It's okay to feel overwhelmed.

Starting university is a big deal and you may have moments where you feel overwhelmed. This is completely natural and you won't be alone in feeling this way. While we encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and try new things, it's important to do so at your own pace.

If you ever have any worries, you can book an appointment with one of our advisors.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ADVICE](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/advice)



Henn Warwick.

>> VP WELLBEING & DIVERSITY

Hi, I'm Henn, your Vice President Wellbeing and Diversity. Throughout the year, I represent the best interests of all students and help to improve wellbeing, equality and inclusivity within the SU and the College. My role is to engage with you, the students, to promote your voice and ensure accurate representation is upheld.

I do this through: working on campaigns, raising awareness of particular issues on our campus and within wider society; empowering our Collectives, ensuring their voices are represented and heard; promoting information from the Advice Centre to assist students through particular issues; sitting on University committees including Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

If you ever have any questions and want to reach out, please do! I am here to support you.

vpwellbeingdiversity@su.rhul.ac.uk

Lucy Brown.

>> VP SOCIETIES & SPORT

Hi guys! I'm Lucy and I'm taking on the new role of VP Societies and Sport for 2020/21! I am so excited to work with our student groups, supporting them as they develop and shape the lives of students.

Given current virtual and social distancing restrictions, student groups are going to be vital in helping people stay connected. One of my main aims for this year will be developing the support available to student group committees to ensure they can carry out their roles as effectively as possible and, in turn, provide their members with high-quality activity. Additionally, I want to work on student group funding and make it more self-sustaining.

Feel free to pop me over an email or message if you ever have a question, and please do say hi if you see me around campus!

vpsocsport@su.rhul.ac.uk



Home of the Bears.

The Students' Union is home to 40 sports clubs who offer a mix of recreational and competitive opportunities. Whether it's a casual game of Pétanque or vying for the league title with American Football, you'll soon know what it means to be part of the Bears family.

If you want to join a club, check out our Digital Freshers' Fair in September. If you see something that takes your fancy, get in touch with the club to find out more about training. Want to take it further? Represent your club in matches and competitions. If you're after something with less of a competitive edge, the Active programme and our social sports could be perfect for you.

Update on leagues.

In order for institutions to be able to support students in their preparation for returning to competitive team sport, the majority of BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) leagues will take place between January and April 2021. The decision has also been made to postpone the start of LUSL (London Universities Sport Leagues) league and knockout activity until Term Two. Please contact clubs individually and follow their social media pages for the latest updates.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/SPORT](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/sport)

Our societies do amazing things.

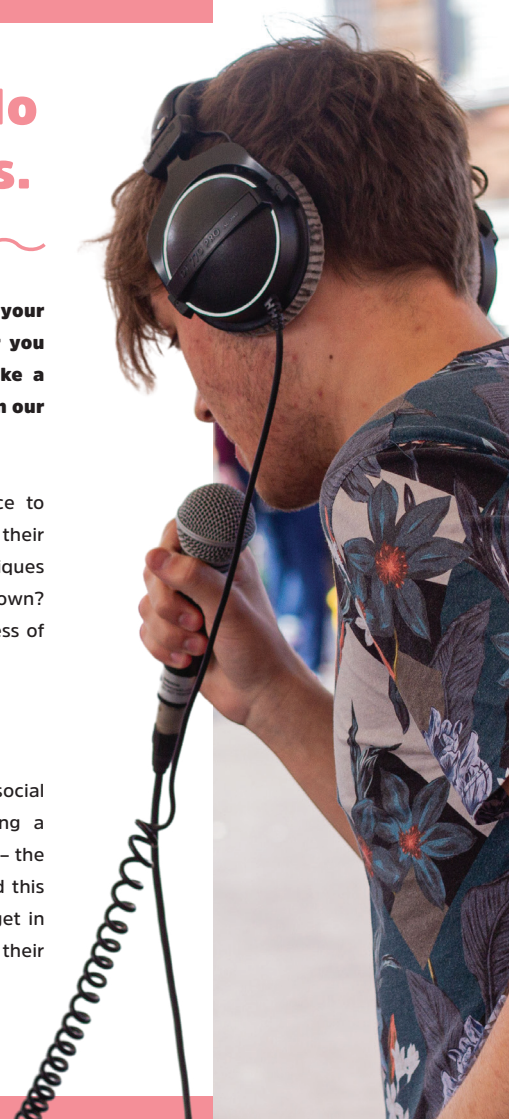
Whether you've always wanted to try your hand at musical theatre and acting, or you want to learn how to speak French like a local, there's a place for everyone within our societies and media outlets.

Our Digital Freshers' Fair is a great place to meet societies and find out more about their activities. If you can't find a society that piques your interest, why not form one of your own? The SU can support you through the process of creating an entirely new group!

Covid-19 update.

Due to government guidelines around social distancing, our groups will be conducting a blended mix of online and physical activity – the finer details are still being worked out and this will vary from group to group, so please get in contact with them individually and follow their social media pages for updates.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/SOCIETIES](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/societies)



Our media outlets are dope.

Our three media outlets are a perfect home for any budding journalists, broadcasters, or creatives. They are your first port of call for the latest news and entertainment on campus.

Orbital Magazine distributes a monthly magazine with a variety of articles ranging from artist interviews to breaking news stories. Find up-to-date news about what's happening on and off campus in their online articles.

Broadcasting around campus, Surrey and beyond, Insanity Radio 103.2FM is our resident radio station. With a schedule of chart, chat, and specialist shows, plus news broadcasts, you're guaranteed great music, great presenters and great coverage.

Collaborating with societies, the Students' Union and the local community, rhubarbTV create all kinds of online content from live streams and news reels to gameshows and dramas.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/MEDIA](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/media)

We're here to represent you, which means the most important voices in the Students' Union should be yours.

That's why we provide an array of different ways for you to get involved and have your say on how things work at the Students' Union, ensuring students are at the heart of every decision we make.

Student Collectives.

Too many groups of students are underrepresented, and it's time to give them a platform to have their voices heard. As well as organising events and campaigns, Student Collectives receive support from and work with the SU to further the interests and collective rights of students.

Student Executives.

We want students to collaborate more effectively on key issues and we achieve this through our three Student Executives: Education; Wellbeing, Community and Diversity; and Clubs, Societies and Opportunities. Sabbatical Officers directly engage with a wide range of students when planning their work and students feed directly into the development of policy and plans in their area.

Policy Inquiries.

We deal with complex, and sometimes controversial issues. That's where policy inquiries come in. These look to generate research and insight to understand the issue in more depth, identify solutions and attempting to find consensus. Last year, we published three reports – BAME Inclusive Student Experience, PGR Student Experience, and Careers Support – where we detailed a series recommendations for ourselves and the University to improve our work in those areas. We already have plans for a student housing policy inquiry this year, and there will be more to come!

Union Workshop.

We recognise that many students want to help us formulate plans in our service areas, such as the Union Shop, our events programme and our menus. As a result, we've created these informal drop-in sessions that all students are welcome to attend – if you have a view, we want to hear from you!

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VOICE](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/voice)

Get ready to Give It A Go.

If you're looking to develop a new skill, flex your creative muscles, or simply unwind after a day of lectures, you'll find something in our calendar of Give It A Go events.

These are smaller scale events that aren't based around alcohol and getting drunk. So whether you're an adrenaline junkie, culture vulture, sports fanatic, or just love trying new things, we'll have something for you!

Traditionally, these events would involve physical activities on campus or day trips to locations such as Bournemouth and Oxford. While we will be able to deliver some in-person activity, we'll be taking the majority of the programme online this year so you can take part from the comfort of your own home.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/GIVEITAGO](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/giveitago)



Get the supplies in.

Who wants to walk 20 minutes to the shops and then carry their bags back up a hill?

Literally nobody. Luckily, the Union Shop is located on the ground floor of the EWD Building, selling fresh produce, drinks, clothing and more. We also have a dedicated vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free selection – lovely stuff.

If you're shielding, or you can't make it to campus, why not take advantage of our delivery service? We can deliver anywhere within a 2.5 mile radius of campus for a flat rate of £5.

>> [UNIONSHOP.CO.UK](https://unionshop.co.uk)

housesearch

Finding a new student pad.

You're just starting your Royal Holloway journey so this is very much one for the future, but it's important.

Don't feel pressured into jumping straight into a house share with your new flatmates. Take your time and wait for our Housing Fair in Term One where you'll have the chance to view properties from all across the local area.

Also make sure to check out HouseSearch. Created by us, it's your free portal to hundreds of local properties. We work with local landlords and also offer some select properties from private halls of residences and estate agents, ensuring your new home is of a high standard.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/HOUSESEARCH](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/housesearch)

Venues for days.

Whether it's food, drink, or a little boogie you're after, we can usually provide something to keep you happy! Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we've had to make some changes to our venues, but here's a rundown of what we usually have to offer.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VENUES](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/venues)

Tommy's Kitchen.



Situated downstairs in the SU, we serve the best burgers on campus, catering for all dietary requirements. Grab yourself a bite to takeaway, sit in for a meal with mates, or chill outside with our seating area on the Union Plaza. Oh, and if hummus and pita is what you dream about at night, make sure you check out Humpit – you won't be disappointed!

Union Venue.



Home to our weekly Wednesday and Friday club nights (although we won't be able to hold these for the foreseeable future), we've had some incredible artists performing over the years from Sigma and Andy C to Don Broco and Daniel P. Carter. The Union Venue also plays hosts to a number of society events and performances throughout the year.



Wi-fi



Gender neutral toilet



Accessible



Child friendly



Pet friendly



Food



Drink



Bookable rooms



Live sport



Board games

The Packhorse.



The SU's very own pub, where you get 10% off food and drink with your College card. If you're a foodie or a sports fan (or even both), you're in luck. We screen live sport seven days a week and we have a new food menu, featuring all your favourite burgers and pizzas.

Medicine.



Fresh from a £650k refurb in the summer of 2018, Medicine is a multi-purpose venue that usually hosts society events, meetings, and Toast - the cheapest club night on campus. We'll be making good use of the beer garden to bring you some outdoor events during Term One.

Making our venues Covid-Secure.

We've been busy over the summer making sure all of our venues are safe for you to enjoy when you arrive on campus.

All events and venues have been mapped to create one-way routes, with colour-controlled zones where required, to ensure social distancing can take place.

Table service will be the only format of service available, with all orders being made through our contactless ordering system available on all smartphones.

Loads more measures have been put in place to ensure your safety – you can find out more by visiting our website.

Virtual Tour.

Want to check out our venues before you arrive? View our Virtual Tour on the Freshers' Festival website.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/FRESHERS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/freshers)



BUY ONE PIZZA, GET ONE

FREE

USE CODE
EGHPZZX2

Uni Tip 101:

**Nothing builds friendships
better than pizza**

Valid at Domino's Egham. Pizza from the menu or 'Create Your Own' up to 4 toppings. Free pizza must be equal or lesser value than the first. Exclusions & T&Cs apply. Expiry 11/08/21.



TRY OUR NEW VEGAN RANGE



Domino's

THE OFFICIAL FOOD OF **EVERYTHING**

FRESHERS' FESTIVAL

WHAT'S ON

Freshers' Festival is your introduction to the Students' Union and everything we have to offer. While we've had to make a few adjustments to our usual events programme this year, we're confident we've put together a package to kick-start your university experience and give you a flavour of what we're all about.

You can find the full list of events and buy tickets on the website.

SU.RHUL.AC.UK/FRESHERS

#RHFRESHERS

HERE WE GO

SAT 12 SEP

WELCOME DRINK

THE PACKHORSE | FREE

SUN 13 SEP

PUB QUIZ

THE PACKHORSE | £2 PER TEAM

MON 14 SEP

PIZZA & PINT

THE PACKHORSE | FREE

FRI 18 SEP

JAZZ NIGHT

THE PACKHORSE | FREE

SAT 19 SEP

WELCOME BBQ

THE PACKHORSE | FREE

POP! ON TOUR

HALLS | FREE

FESTIVAL IN A BOX

AT HOME | £30

KEEPING YOU SAFE



While Freshers' Festival is obviously about having loads of fun, our number one priority is ensuring you are able to enjoy our events in a safe environment.

All our activities and events will be conducted in accordance with the relevant guidance published by the UK Government, with changes made to the operation of all events and venues to comply with social distancing guidance.

You can read more about the specific measures being put in place by checking out the individual event pages on our Freshers' Festival website.



SUN 20 SEP

BIG FAT PUB QUIZ

THE PACKHORSE | £2 PER TEAM

SPEEDMATING

MEDICINE | FREE

POP! ON TOUR

HALLS | FREE

SUN 27 SEP

PUB QUIZ

THE PACKHORSE | £2 PER TEAM

SUNDAY BRUNCH CLUB

SU LAWN | £15

OUTDOOR CINEMA

FOUNDER'S SQUARE | FREE

MON 21 SEP

ZUMBA AT HOME

ONLINE | FREE

SUNSET SESSIONS

THE PACKHORSE | FREE

TOAST GARDEN SESSIONS

MEDICINE | FREE

ALICE IN WONDERLAND AFTERNOON TEA

SU LAWN | £10

SAT 26 SEP

BATTLE 'THE BEAST' FOOD EATING COMPETITION

THE PACKHORSE | £20 TO ENTER

MASK-A-RAVE BALL

SU LAWN | £15

+ SPECIAL GUEST

TUE 22 SEP

MARKET DAY

SU PLAZA | FREE

UNION ROCKS

SU PLAZA | £12

+ SPECIAL GUEST

FRI 25 SEP

GIAG - GET WELL GET INTO YOGA

ONLINE | FREE

JAM SESSIONS

THE PACKHORSE | FREE

THE BIG FRESH QUIZ: GAME OF THRONES EDITION

SU LAWN | £10 LIVE OR £5 ONLINE

WED 23 SEP

COCKTAIL IN A BOX

AT HOME | 3 COCKTAILS FOR £30

THE COMEDY STORE LIVE

SU LAWN | £10 LIVE OR £5 ONLINE

ACOUSTIC SESSIONS

MEDICINE | FREE

THU 24 SEP

GIAG - GET SKILLED TIME MANAGEMENT

ONLINE | FREE

GIAG - GET CREATIVE CRAFTERNOON

SU PLAZA | £3

TRANSMISSION

THE PACKHORSE | FREE

PRIDE ON THE LAWN

SU LAWN | £5

TICKETS

Tickets will go on sale in two phases:
Returning students: Monday 14 September
New students: Friday 18 September

Tickets will be available for groups of 2/4/6/8 students and you will be allocated your own table for the duration of the event.

To ensure you have a chance to form social/household bubbles before you commit to buying tickets, we will be holding back 50% of tickets and putting them on sale to first year students only on Friday 18 September.

Tickets will only be available in advance for all events, there will be no opportunity to purchase tickets on the door.



JUST FOR YOU

As a registered charity we are a not-for-profit organisation, which means that every penny we earn goes directly back into delivering services for students.

Putting on loads of great activities for Freshers' Festival obviously comes at a cost and while we'd love to give away everything for free, that simply isn't possible. To ensure that we can cover what we spend on everything that goes into running them, such as entertainment, sound, lighting, staff (and much more), we do have to charge an entry fee for our larger events.

The reduced capacity to allow for social distancing also means that the cost per head to run each event has increased this year. We've tried to keep our pricing structure as fair as possible and there are still a number of free events for you to enjoy if money is a little tight.

MON 28 SEP

**GIAG - GET CREATIVE
CUPCAKE DECORATING**
SU PLAZA | £3

**TOASTIALLY
DISTANCED**
MEDICINE | FREE

OUTDOOR CINEMA
FOUNDER'S SQUARE | FREE

TUE 29 SEP

**GIAG - GET CREATIVE
FIND THE ARTIST
IN YOU**
ONLINE | FREE

COCKTAIL CLASS
MEDICINE | £40 PER PAIR

MARKET DAY
SU PLAZA | FREE

THU 01 OCT

TRANSMISSION
THE PACKHORSE | FREE

80S V 90S V 00S
SU LAWN | £10

WED 30 SEP

**GIAG - GET ACTIVE
HOME WORKOUT**
ONLINE | FREE

COCKTAIL IN A BOX
AT HOME | 3 COCKTAILS FOR £30

**FLAWLESS
DISTANCING** **+ SPECIAL GUEST**
SU LAWN | £15

FRI 02 OCT

MUSICAL BINGO
SU LAWN | £10

DISTANCED DESI
MEDICINE | £5

SAT 03 OCT

GARDEN GAMES
MEDICINE | FREE

**AFRO-CARIBBEAN
FOOD MARKET**
SU PLAZA | FREE

IMPORTANT

PLEASE NOTE, ALL EVENTS ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING
ON GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE
AROUND EVENTS AND SOCIAL
DISTANCING MEASURES.

NAVIGATING FRESHERS' FESTIVAL

It can be tricky finding the right balance between work and play but it's doable. While we will be putting on an array of events to help you enjoy the social side of university life, it's up to you to decide how involved you get. Our events are a great way to meet new people and enjoy new experiences in a safe environment, but if you'd rather stay in and watch the latest Netflix series, that's also absolutely fine. There are no set rules and you can shape your own experience!

Freshers' Festival isn't all about drinking and partying either - we run loads of alcohol-free events, including our Give It A Go programme, your best bet for new and exciting experiences. We'd also encourage you to go out and explore campus and the local area. The beautiful Virginia Water Lake is just down the road and you can also check out the monument to Magna Carta down in Runnymede. From riverside walks to glorious meadows, memorials and secluded spots, there's something for everyone!

If you're not able to make it to campus for Freshers' Festival, don't worry! There will still be plenty of time to explore when you arrive and we'll do our best to introduce you to all the best spots. Remember you'll still be able to get involved with our virtual events and become part of the amazing Royal Holloway community.

We know that adapting to student life can be challenging. There may be moments when you feel overwhelmed, but you won't be going through this alone. You can find help using our online resources or if you want to speak to someone, our Advice Centre is on hand to offer you free and impartial advice. Alternatively, you can also have a chat with the University's Student Services. You can also find out more information about the start to university life by downloading 'Welcome to Royal Holloway' from the App Store or Google Play.

SEE YOU SOON



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