



# KIASU GUIDE 2022

PART 3

LIFE IN LONDON



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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This publication would not have been possible without the support received from our predecessors. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all parties involved in the creation of this publication.

## FOREWORD

Helloooo fresher friends!!!

Thank you all so much for joining us at our Pre-Departure Talk and Orientation Camp. Both events were a massive success thanks to your enthusiastic participation! We are very grateful and now even more excited for all that we have planned for the rest of the academic year. Now that you've made some new friends and (hopefully) have all your administration nonsense settled... LONDON PARTY TIME IS HERE!

We've saved the best for last in our Kiasu Guide Part III, which contains a ton of information and advice on the swaggiest things to do in and around London. We hope that you will use this guide for some inspiration when you're making plans to explore the city. We tried our best to cover all the bases – food, entertainment, shopping – but we're sure that you will be doing a lot more exploring on your own anyway.

Over the next month, you can look forward to being matched up with your singsoc parents <3 as well as Freshers' Month (!! ) in mid September, where we will be organising interest-based activities for you guys to meet more people and explore London together!

For more information about our events and how to sign up for them, you can follow UCL SingSoc on Instagram [@UCLsingsoc](#) and join our [Facebook](#) and [Telegram](#) groups. We also have a dedicated [Facebook](#) and [Whatsapp](#) group for this year's Freshers.

As usual, feel free to reach out to us at any time for help or advice! Take care and we really hope to see you at future singsoc events!!!! <33 IN LONDON! SO COOL!!!!



Isabel Lim  
President  
UCL Singapore Society

## BEST PLACES TO VISIT IN LONDON

- I. **Catch a musical at the West End:** Your experience of living in London won't be complete without the chance to appreciate London's enviable musical theatre scene! With a constantly evolving lineup, you're sure to always find something that intrigues you. Head to the box office on the morning of the performance if you want cheap but good tickets! Alternatively, you can find cheaper options on the app, TodayTix.
  - A. TodayTix is damn good you should ALL download it!!! There's cheap tickets, weekly lotteries to get free tickets (and people really do get them.. Although I have not 😞) You can get ~£20 tickets although sometimes the cheapest tickets will have really bad views... still cheap! And some shows will release Rush tickets at 10am on the day of the show itself – ~£20 but for actually good seats. And you don't have to queue IRL! Thumbs up.
  - B. If you use external merchants to buy tickets make sure you also check the prices/seats available on the production's official booking site, sometimes they're actually better.
- II. **Regent's Park:** If you need a time out from hectic uni life, Regent's Park is a great place to go to unwind. It houses picturesque rose gardens and the unique Japanese Garden Island, both of which will definitely lift your spirits! Alternatively, head over to its enchanting Open Air Theatre or the nearby ZSL London Zoo if you're looking for something more engaging to do.
  - A. Sometimes if you're lucky you'll be able to see HUGE camels from Regent's Park - it is very cool



- III. **Primrose Hill:** If you wish to have a picnic with friends or watch the sunset, Primrose Hill is a great place to relax and meet other people! Also a nice walk from Regent's Park.



- IV. **Winter Wonderland:** From thrilling fairground rides and ice skating to charming Christmas markets and family shows, this is one of the most festive places to visit in term 1 during winter! Admission is free (with £25 minimum spend on booking activities and food) and there are enough fun things to do to fill a whole day and evening. Not to mention the numerous food stalls selling delicious fair food, from hotdogs and churros to waffles and crepes! This place never disappoints.

A. I wouldn't recommend booking the attractions in advance cos they're mostly quite lame or just bad (last year the ice skating rink was melting) – you can hit the £25 minimum by booking rides instead.

- V. **Chinatown:** This is a great place to go to if you're missing comfort food from home! There are so many amazing places to eat, from dim sum restaurants to Japanese and dessert parlours. You could also buy local delights from famous bakeries and of course, try out all the bubble tea shops!
- VI. **Borough Market:** As one of the must-go places in London, Borough Market is famous for its artisan prepared food and fresh organic produce. If you are feeling indecisive and wish to explore a variety of food options for lunch, head down to Borough Market for mushroom risotto/ mushroom toast (highly highly recommend this from Turnip), roasted burgers, fresh doughnuts, pastries, handmade pasta and more! The prices usually won't cost more than £15 and you can enjoy just walking around seeking out the little shops that the market has to offer.

- VII. Camden Market:** Camden Market is probably one of the more eccentric markets in London, with an energetic and alternative vibe. It is host to a diverse community of street food traders, independent stores and creative sellers, including some Asian food stalls! If you want to do some vintage shopping or are craving food from home, it's definitely worth a visit.



- VIII. Canary Wharf:** If you want to explore a more historic part of the city, there are a ton of things to do at Canary Wharf! Kick back in the roof garden or Jubilee Park, make your way to a boutique-style cinema screening films from different eras, then head to The Breakfast Club or Jamie's Italian for a memorable meal. There are sometimes even open-air concerts or vintage fairs held here in the summer.
- IX. Old Spitalfields Market:** The original East London market. Small producers, local creatives, independent retailers and a few well-known brands under one historic roof. You can find shops selling unique jewellery, clothes, plants, asian food, desserts etc. There are also some tables and chairs for dining, but the whole place will be bustling with life in the afternoon, so make sure to go early if you want to grab a seat!
- X. Shoreditch:** With vibrant street art, you definitely won't be bored here! Brick Lane Market has become synonymous with Shoreditch and houses vintage markets, street food and hipster performances. You might even see people selling clothes from their trunk. Another place to visit is Boxpark. Made from diffused shipping containers stacked on top of one another, the first level has cute home and clothing shops while the second level is mostly food. Drop by Old Spitalfields Market while you're at it! The best day to visit is Sunday!

**XI. Notting Hill:** A highly instagrammable area with its iconic pastel houses and the thriving Portobello Road Market, Notting Hill is the perfect place to spend your day with friends. It has many delicious food street stalls, or if you're feeling fancy, hipster restaurants. The market has a great selection, from vintage clothing and antiques to signature Greek coffee! Perhaps you'll even meet a film star in a travel book shop. Saturday is arguably the best day to visit the market as all the shops are in full swing.



**XII. Tate Modern:** Just in case you haven't heard of this place, the Tate-Modern is the most popular modern art gallery in the world and definitely a must-see! It has an ever-changing collection and is filled with works by renowned artists such as Picasso and Warhol. Admission is free, but there is a charge for some exhibitions.

# LONDON FOOD GUIDE

## WESTERN

- 1) **Padella** (Outstanding hand-made pasta, as cheap as £4! Cannot recommend this enough, probably best pasta for its value in London. Queues are always insane, so either go there to queue at least 30 mins before it opens or try your luck with the online queue)
- 2) **Bancone** (~£10, another amazing pasta place - try their signature silk handkerchiefs pasta! Recommended to book at least 2 weeks in advance)
- 3) Lina Stores (~£10 excellent pasta, their truffle pasta is great)
- 4) B Bagel (~£5 yummy bagels! Have student discounts too. Download their loyalty app as well to get stamps to redeem free bagels! They sometimes also have free samples when they're doing some R&D stuff)
- 5) Flat Iron (£10 steak, go to Covent Garden branch for free ice cream)
- 6) Homeslice Pizza (£10 each for huge thin crust pizza; Soho branch more crowded but better quality than Fitzrovia branch)
- 7) Happy Face Pizza (~£10 for good Italian food and pizzas)
- 8) Duck & Waffle (£20 for duck leg on waffle and amazing views; must book quite in advance due to popularity)
- 9) Ivy Market Grill (£20 for excellent fusion-ish food and vibes)
- 10) Barrafina (~£25 for Spanish tapas)
- 11) Casa Tua (~£10 for amazing pasta)
- 12) Ave Mario (~£20 for Italian food)
- 13) Albertini (~£20 for Italian food)
- 14) Balthazar (~£15 for superb breakfast/brunch foods)
- 15) My Old Dutch (£5.95 for huge pancakes with sweet/savoury toppings, only on Mondays- very worth it!)
- 16) Where The Pancakes Are (~£10 for pancakes!)
- 17) The Breakfast Club (~£15 for great brunchy food)
- 18) Mildreds (~£15 vegan western)

## ASIAN

- 1) **Dishoom** (~£15 for really good Indian food; go to the King's Cross branch)
- 2) Dapur (~£12 for nasi lemak/rendang)
- 3) Master Wei (~£13 for biang biang noodles and a free fortune cookie)
- 4) Seoul Plaza (~£6-8 for economic rice i.e. cai fan style Korean food! Choose a base and some toppings, their aubergines are excellent. Near campus too!)
- 5) Hozi (£5.50 for kimchi+beef/pork+rice)



- 6) Old Town 97 (~£12 Chinese food: they have this legendary off the menu LSE fried rice and I don't know why it's named after LSE but it's so good)
- 7) Ramo Ramen (~£12 Filipino-inspired ramen place with excellent vegan options!)
- 8) Eat Tokyo (£12 for chirashi don)
- 9) Rasa Sayang (~£12 for Singaporean/Malaysian food - has yu sheng during CNY)
- 10) Roti King (~£8-12 for Singaporean/Malaysian food including prata, but queues are very long)
- 11) Three Uncles (~£10-12 for roasted duck/pork rice and wanton mee)
- 12) On the Bab (~£12 for really good Korean fried chicken)
- 13) Kanadaya (£13 for super good ramen; get the black sesame with matcha soft serve if they have it)
- 14) Marugame Udon (~£5-10 udon, very worth! Sign up for their loyalty card too to get a free tempura within 7 days of signing up)
- 15) Dozo Sushi (£8 for lunch set meals- super worth!)
- 16) Kiln (~£17 for spicy Thai dishes)
- 17) Centrepont Food Store (~£10 for authentic Korean; it's located in the basement)
- 18) Crystal China (~£15 for really food mala hotpot)
- 19) Hoppers (£5 for amazing hoppers; good vegetarian options and decent Sri Lankan food)
- 20) Le Bab (~£8-10 Middle Eastern, their shishito peppers are good)
- 21) Duck & Rice (£16.50 for the classic duck+rice; variety of Asian cuisines)
- 22) Goldmine (A little out of the way but decent Chinese food; ~£8 for noodles/rice dishes, ~£6 for dumplings)
- 23) Four seasons (the duck is amazing!!)
- 24) Dim Sum Duck (decent dimsum, expect around ~£16-20 pp)

## CAFES

- 1) Halfcup (King's Cross - highly recommend their beetroot latte)
- 2) Prufrock Coffee (Leather Lane)
- 3) Catalyst (Grays Inn)
- 4) Milkbar (Soho)
- 5) Flat White (Soho)
- 6) The Attendant (Fitzrovia)
- 7) Store Street Espresso (Russell Square)
- 8) Monmouth Coffee (A few branches)
- 9) Bird and Blend (not a sit down cafe but a tea place with lots of fun teas!)

## DESSERT

- 1) Amorino (Ice cream)
- 2) Bilmonte (Ice Cream)
- 3) Gelupo (Ice cream, pistachio one is amazing)
- 4) Humble Crumble (insane apple/fruit pie type crumble served in a cup. Personally love having the hot custard in winter. Vegan-friendly too!)
- 5) Shack-Fuyu (French toast+matcha soft-serve ice cream)
- 6) Tsujiri (Matcha soft serve ice cream)
- 7) Happy Lemon (Bubble tea; taro is especially good)
- 8) Shibuya (Bingsu)
- 9) Mamasons (Asian-inspired ice cream flavours, ube is so good)
- 10) Coco (Bubble tea)

## BAKERIES

- 1) Miel Bakery (incredibly near campus with high quality pastries, get their special pistachio croissant if they have it)
- 2) Buns From Home (more amazing croissant type buns. Recently opened a branch at Covent Garden!)
- 3) Arome (Asian-inspired pastries - sells shokupan and an excellent honey french toast)
- 4) Gail's Bakery
- 5) Ong Ong Buns (Asian-inspired buns ran by a Malaysia/Hong Kong couple)
- 6) Panadera (Filipino bakery with really good sandos)

## HIGH-END

- 1) Gymkhana (1 michelin-starred Indian food)
- 2) Hakkasan (1 michelin-starred dim sum)
- 3) Dinings (Amazing sushi)
- 4) Sushi Tetsu (Amazing sushi)
- 5) Yashin Sushi (Amazing sushi)
- 6) ROKA (Western-Japanese fusion food)
- 7) Gordon Ramsay in Chelsea (3 michelin-starred French food)
- 8) The Ledbury (2 michelin-starred European food)

## SHOPPING IN LONDON

### EVERYDAY/HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- **Amazon:** Many of the things that you'll need for your accommodations can be conveniently bought off Amazon, where it'll be delivered to your accommodations. Better still, once you've properly enrolled on-site, you can apply for Student Prime that entitles you to a 6-month free trial for its Prime Subscription where you can enjoy one-day deliveries and unlimited access to Prime Video. Subscription to Prime costs £3.99/month after the free trial ends.
- **Primark:** Essentially the BHG/OG/Robinsons of London where you can buy household items (e.g., pillows, duvets, bins) at reasonable prices. The Primark closest to school is located just outside Tottenham Court Road tube station!
- **Ryman Stationery:** If you ever need school stationery supplies, or urgently need to print some documents (although you can do this in the school's libraries).
- **Flying Tiger:** A lot of cheap and aesthetic household items like bowls, baking tools and even gym stuff! There's one branch very close to school along Tottenham Court Road.

### FASHION

- **Oxford/Regent Street:** All the big brands - H&M, UNIQLO, JD - can be found along Oxford/Regent Street, which is just about a 15 minutes walk from school!
- **Westfield:** Much further from Bloomsbury is Westfield London, which is a huge shopping mall located in Shepherd's Bush.
- **London Designer Outlet:** Located at Wembley, you can find all the international brands here as well.
- **UCL Clothes Swap Shop/Vintage Sales:** UCL organises monthly clothes swaps where you can bring any number of clothes to swap for however many clothes you want! UCL also sometimes holds sales for pre-loved clothes, like the Vintage Kilo Sale during Freshers' Week last year, where you could get a kilogram's worth of vintage clothes for £15. While the quality of the clothes you can get at these sales might sometimes be doubtful, it is undeniably cheap.
- **Charity shops:** These are shops run by charities like Oxfam or Cancer Research UK which sell second-hand clothes and everyday items.

- **Shoreditch vintage shops:** If you like vintage clothing, then this is the place for you fam.

## GROCERY SHOPPING IN LONDON

Grocery shopping in London can be very exciting for all the grocery lovers - there are so many places you can get your groceries and you often find very interesting things too! But if you are self-catered and have to cook for yourself, you can very easily rack up your weekly grocery expenditure if you're not careful, so here's some grocery hacks.

When I first arrived, I decided to create a [grocery spreadsheet](#) to compare grocery prices among the grocery stores. It was very handy for me in the first few weeks, when I was still trying to figure out which supermarkets were the cheapest and where I could find certain things, etc.

		loon fung (chinatown)	see woo (chinatown)	oseyo	lidl	tesco	sainsbury's	tian tian	waitrose	planet organic	alara (near Judd's books)	m&s
	enoki mushrooms	£0.99 for 100g						£1.39 for 200g				
	king oyster mushroom	£10.39/kg (2-£1.83)						£11.99/kg (£1.73 ~ for two)				
mushrooms	lion mane mushroom	£3.85 for 90g						£4.69 for 180g				
	chiye sim	£4.35/kg	£4.50/kg					£8/kg				
	bok choy	£2.95/kg	£4.80/kg	£6.99/kg	£0.99 for two			£8/kg	£1.60 for 235g (£6.81/kg)	£1.99 for one		
	broccoli				£0.65 for two	£0.80 for two	£0.65 for one		£1.75/kg			£1.30 for one (325g)
	cauliflower	£2.99/kg				£0.80 for one			£1.80 for two			£0.90 for one
	corn					£1.50 for two			£1 for two			£1.75 for two
	frozen corn	£1.59 for 907g (frozen)							£1.20 for 750g			
	capsicum	£2.19/kg (2-£0.79)			£0.82 for three	£1.35 for three	£0.50 for one		£1.40 for three or £2.85/kg			£1.60 for three or £0.60 for one
	carrots	£0.39/kg				£0.35 for 500g	£0.40 for 500g		£0.60/kg	£1.99/kg		
	chinese cabbage	£1.99 for one	£1.50 for one	£2.89/kg								
	spinach				£1.29							
leafy/colourful veggies	flat Taiwanese cabbage	£1.95/kg	£2.30/kg					£2.99/kg				

*It is my own personal spreadsheet, for things I like to buy to cook and eat! It may not be the most updated (+ pre-inflation prices), but feel free to reach out (Yu Xuan, tele: @applepancakes ) or leave a comment if you spot any new changes or have any questions! Just a note that I am vegetarian, so there wouldn't be any meat there oops. Also, disclaimer that most of my recommendations and groceries listed are quite Chinese focused, since that's what I cook and eat most.*

After a while I stopped referring to my spreadsheet (unless I was looking for something quite niche, specific or usually expensive, or if two stores are very nearby for e.g. in Chinatown and I didn't mind shopping in two stores), because I had a feel of which supermarkets are relatively cheaper. My thoughts on some of the supermarkets:

Lidl	My go-to and the cheapest supermarket near campus (along Tottenham Court Road), anything >£1 is expensive here. Good for getting fresh produce and staples! Best time to come is around 3-4pm, where things are not sold out yet and there's things on clearance too. Get the Lidl app and you can sometimes get discounts!
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Yohome	A newly opened Chinese mart near the multi-story Waterstones. Has a pretty wide variety of Chinese goods and is more affordable than Tian Tian (the other nearby Chinese mart). Also has a 5% student discount!
Tian Tian	The Asian mart for everyone living near Brunswick (i.e. most of the Garden Halls folks)! More expensive than Yohome, but has a larger variety of things especially familiar snacks and food (Hello Panda, pineapple tarts, White Rabbit candy, boxed mochi, Indomie, Hai Di Lao sauces, sometimes even tinned Milo). They also have a bakery section selling bakes from Chinatown Bakery (youtiao, egg tarts, char siew buns, red bean buns, black sesame buns etc) - if you go down at the end of the day you might be able to snag some at clearance prices:D <i>(very random side note: Tian Tian sells the greatest variety of frozen Fresh Asia dumplings, and I highly HIGHLY recommend them. Get the veggie ones if you see them, they are much cheaper than the meat options and are honestly better than Din Tai Fung's veggie dumplings.)</i>
Loon Fung	The cheaper Chinese supermarket in Chinatown! The rest are a bit more expensive, though See Woo is a contender sometimes. But you will already be saving quite a bit even if you shop at Loon Fung exclusively in Chinatown without checking out See Woo. <i>(another random side note: Loon Fung sells my favourite tofu brand (Tofu King) at the lowest price; personally think that brand is the most similar to the ones you find in Singapore, some others taste a bit strange. Nearer campus, you can get it at Yohome and sometimes Tian Tian.)</i>
Waitrose	The more premium accessible supermarket in London, but they do have some really cool things. I like to go to their clearance section too, especially nearing the end of the day/week! Their non-dairy milks (for brands like Oatly and Alpro) are also relatively cheaper as compared to Tesco actually. I go there mostly to stock up on my Alpro soy milks, and when I'm feeling richer and want to treat myself to cool groceries.
Oseyo	Personally, not a huge fan. Things here are overly expensive and you can get things for much cheaper elsewhere. Only recommendation is kimchi - sometimes the kimchi here can be a lot cheaper when they're on discount.

Apart from the big chain supermarkets, there are a few smaller grocery stores that cater to other cuisines - a halal grocery store along the Brunswick stretch, a Vietnamese/Thai one along Camden High Street, etc. The other fun thing about London is the many farmers' markets where you can buy more interesting fresh produce and groceries! Borough Market is a cheese haven, while Islington Farmers' Market (every Sunday) and Growing Communities' Farmers' Market (every Saturday) have wonderful selections of colourful and interesting veggies and mushrooms. There are many more exciting markets to visit and I recommend just simply exploring!

One last thing - London also has Oddbox, a produce subscription service that sends you surplus or ugly produce every one or two weeks! **Sign up through my referral link [here](#) to get one box free:** Once you create an account, you can also refer others, and both you and your friends will get a box free. Free food for everyone!!! You can either choose to get just fruits or vegetables, or both fruits and vegetables. I love the concept and also find them pretty value for money, perfect for those lazy to go grocery shopping. The fun thing about it is that you wouldn't know what you'll get, and sometimes you get new veggies that you've never had before, which allows you to have fun experimenting!

## A ROUGH PACKING LIST

Item	Remarks
Yourself	duh
A week's worth of clothes	You don't have to bring too many, you'll probably buy some during your time in London
<p style="text-align: center;">Winter wear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Waterproof down jackets</li> <li>● Waterproof boots (Timberland, Dr Martens, etc., cheaper in SG)</li> </ul>	Temperatures don't dip too low until mid/end-October. So if you really don't have any space left in your baggage, you could always get your winter wear in London.
Medium-sized backpack / duffel bag	Handy if you're planning trips to Europe on budget carriers with baggage limits. But if you don't have any space left in your baggage, you can always buy one when you're in London.
<p style="text-align: center;">Some reminders of home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pictures taken with loved ones and friends</li> <li>● SG flag (for the really patriotic ones)</li> </ul>	:')
<p style="text-align: center;">Some local delights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Milo powder, Maggi instant noodles, etc.</li> </ul>	There are Asian marts in London which sell these items, but at quite obscene prices. If you have space in your baggage, just bring some over to enjoy a taste of home :')
<p style="text-align: center;">Basic toiletries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 roll of toilet paper</li> <li>● Shampoo and soap</li> <li>● Towel, bath mat</li> </ul>	These items are not strictly necessary. You're only recommended to pack them if your flight arrives in London in the evening, because many shops close very early at around 7PM and so it'll be a rush trying to get everything you need to tide through the first night.
<p style="text-align: center;">Other essentials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contact lenses, spare glasses</li> <li>● Laptop, iPad, etc.</li> <li>● Personal medication</li> </ul>	<p>Contact lenses and glasses aren't as readily available in London and can be quite expensive, so bring some over if you do need them.</p> <p>Electronic products (e.g. Apple devices - take advantage of the student discounts) are easier and cheaper to get in Singapore as well!</p>



## STAYING SAFE IN LONDON

While London is certainly no Singapore in terms of safety, you don't have to be too concerned while in London. The environment may feel foreign and hostile at the start, but you'll slowly get the hang of it. Nonetheless, low crime doesn't mean \_\_\_ crime (fill in the blanks yourself), there are some measures and tips you can take note of to make sure that you can avoid unpleasant experiences while in London.

1. Get yourself a personal attack alarm ([example](#)). As the name suggests, these devices emit a huge ass sound when you activate them, which can help to alert others in case you're in distress. You can get them on Shopee for <\$10. This is your best bet to make yourself feel safe if you're getting around the city on your own. Just FYI - pepper sprays and carrying around blades longer than 3 inches are illegal in the UK.
2. As most would already have known - apes together strong. When night falls, travel around with a group of friends as much as possible. If this isn't an option, take public transport and avoid dingy, quiet small streets (walk next to brightly lit main roads if you can) if you would rather walk. It is also a typical practice for friends to walk each other home when it gets late.
3. While walking around, do not openly carry any valuables in your hands - you'll be a prime target for robbers on mopeds, and there are posters (like the one to the right) around the campus to warn you of the presence of these gangs. Some may even ride a bike and just snatch your phone away if you are holding it in your hands. Keep all your valuables in your inner pockets as well to prevent being pickpocketed. If you really have to use your phone, stand closer to the buildings than the side of the road and face away from the roads.
4. If you're going to be clubbing or just going to have a few drinks at a pub, go with friends whom you trust. While you're at these venues, watch out for your drinks and never, ever, leave them unattended. There was a series of incidents of spiking last academic year.



5. While there aren't really any no-go zones in Central London in general, Holborn and Chinatown specifically seem to have a higher incidence of pickpocketing/snatching cases. I've personally had 2 acquaintances who were pickpocketed while in Chinatown.
6. If you're living in student accommodations, please take care to lock your rooms when you're out. There have been instances of thieves tailgating students into the accommodations and stealing stuff from unlocked rooms. Just before I checked-out, the entire TV that was at the lobby of my accommodations was stolen - you'll never know what might happen.
7. Racism wise - not to worry. London is an incredibly diverse and global city. Cases of outright and overt racism on the streets are rare. I've personally not had any encounters during my time in London.
8. Hotlines of emergency services:
  - a. **999** – Main emergency number for police, ambulance, fire brigade, coastguard, cliff rescue, mountain rescue, cave rescue, etc.
  - b. **112** – This operates exactly the same as 999 and directs you to exactly the same emergency call centre. The important thing about 112 is that it will work on a mobile phone anywhere in the world.
  - c. **101** – Use 101 when you want to contact the police, but it's not an emergency (i.e. an immediate response is not necessary and/or will not serve any purpose).
  - d. **111** – The non-emergency medical number. This is available nationwide and replaced and expanded on the former NHS Direct service. Use this for illnesses and minor injuries where life isn't threatened, but you would like some advice on what to do next.

## SOME HACKS AND MORE

- I. Most telecommunication companies allow free purchase of sim cards. You can register the sim card without ever using it. This allows you to be eligible for promotions by that telecommunication company.
- II. For coffee lovers, check out Pret A Manger's monthly coffee subscription for £25/month (£12.50 for the first month). Get up to 5 cups of coffee a day, with a minimum of 30 min intervals between redemptions.
  - a. Be warned that Pret's coffee is not the greatest
- III. Download applications like Unidays, Student Beans, Today Tix, and Student Pulse for discounts and promotions for shopping, musicals, and concerts. You can also sign up for Mousetrap membership (free!) to get cheap tickets to plays and musicals (they are mostly under £10!!). Sign up for the mailing list of arts organisations like Southbank Centre, National Theatre, and Barbican Centre to keep yourself updated with events.
- IV. Mcdonald's has some really cheap food for supper (when you are rushing work or your drama). Big macs and fries cost £1.99; the wrap of the day costs £1.99 (£3+ for a meal); 20 piece nuggets cost £4.69; and Mcflurry costs 99p but Singapore's one is better. Students get a free Mcflurry or cheese burger or chicken mayo burger with the purchase of any meal. Just show your card!
- V. Download applications like Too Good to Go which sells food that is for clearing at very cheap prices because they do not want to keep it till tomorrow. There are many participating outlets near UCL so you will certainly have the food that you want, though sushi is always popular (Yo! Sushi is an outlet which participates in this).
- VI. Get your memberships for grocery shopping! Waitrose, Nectar Card, Tesco, Ikea, Boots, Superdrug. All these shops have free memberships to collect points. Additionally, you can get a free cup of coffee or tea every time you buy something from Waitrose if you have a membership card.
- VII. Do ALL your health checkups and vaccination in Singapore! For those who wear retainers, we suggest making a 2<sup>nd</sup> pair in case you lose it in the UK. One of us lost ours and had to fork out £260 just for 1 retainer – that's twice the price of what you have to pay in Singapore! Do prepare an extra set of spectacles or bring extra sets of contact lenses for emergency use as you cannot simply buy contact lenses and spectacles off the shelf (like Owndays) in the UK! You have to take an eye test (for a fee) and get a prescription from the optometrist before ordering your contact lenses/spectacles (which will take 2 weeks).

**VIII.** Buy a railcard and oyster card (no need for the more expensive student photo oyster), and link them to get  $\frac{1}{3}$  off tube fares during off-peak periods! Just go to the oyster top up machine at tube stations and approach the staff there. The railcard will also allow you to get  $\frac{1}{3}$  off rail fares for when you want to travel out of London! Another hack - if you can wait - is to wait till Black Friday (end Nov) to buy the 3-year railcard, because prices drop A LOT during then.

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS

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