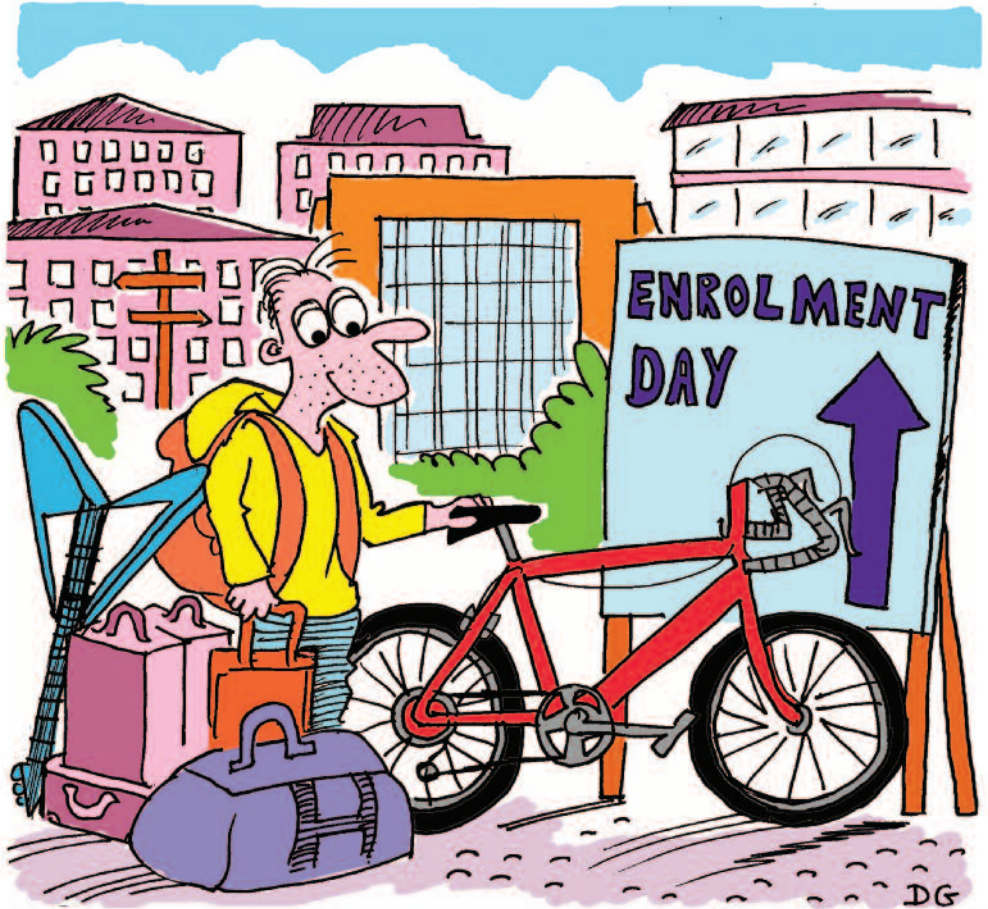


Crime prevention advice

Crime prevention for students



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS



SURREY POLICE
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www.surrey.police.uk

Crime prevention for students

Your student years can be among the best in your life. However, leaving home for university or college also brings with it a whole new range of responsibilities, not least the need to protect yourself and your belongings from criminals.

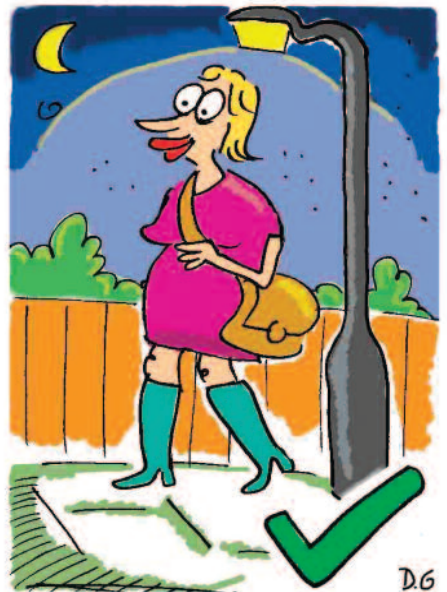
The advice in this leaflet will help keep you safe and your property secure.

Out and about

Most students don't enjoy the luxury of owning a car so follow these top tips to keep safe when you're out and about.

On foot

- Avoid walking home alone after an evening out. Walk with friends or take a taxi.
- Walk confidently and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Avoid shortcuts in lonely places. Keep to well lit, busy streets.
- Always walk facing oncoming traffic so a car cannot pull up behind you.
- Use cash machines in daylight or when you are with a friend. Otherwise choose one inside a bank.



Avoid unlit, lonely areas and keep to well lit, busy streets

Crime prevention for students

- When approaching your house or halls of residence, have your keys ready so you can enter without delay.
- Cover up jewellery, mobile phones, personal music players and keys.
- Carry a personal attack alarm.
- If you think you're being followed, walk to the busiest place you can find or knock on a door. Then call the police.
- Avoid chatting on your phone or listening to your MP3 player when walking. You are less likely to hear someone coming up behind you.
- If you are attacked, shout for help as loudly as you can. Use your personal attack alarm. Try to get to a safe place and call the police.
- Consider taking self defence classes – many universities and colleges will run these.

Travelling by taxi

- Keep the number of a reputable taxi firm with you.
- Avoid taxi drivers touting for business.
- Sit behind the driver and stay aware.
- If you feel uneasy, ask to be let out in a busy, well lit area.
- If in doubt, don't get in.



Carry a personal attack alarm

On buses and trains

- While waiting for a bus or train, stand in a well lit place near other people.
- Sit near the guard or driver and avoid empty carriages or empty top decks.
- Check where the emergency chain or button is located.
- If you are being pestered, tell the guard or driver.
- Keep your fare money or ticket at hand so you can avoid getting your purse or wallet out in public.
- Always keep your belongings close by and your bag and pockets closed.

Crime prevention for students

In pubs and clubs

- Keep an eye on your friends.
- Don't accept drinks from people you don't know.
- Never leave your drink unattended – it may get 'spiked'.
- If your drink looks or tastes odd, don't drink it. If you feel unusually ill, seek help from a friend or a member of staff.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol. If you are under the influence of alcohol, you are more likely to become a victim – or perpetrator of crime.

Protecting your property

Lap tops, mobile phones and other electronic equipment are often easy pickings for thieves. Follow these tips to keep your valuable property safe:

- When living in halls of residence, always lock your door, even if you are only gone for a few minutes.
 - Always lock windows and doors when you go out. In shared accommodation don't assume someone else will do this.
 - Keep your front and back doors locked – even when you are in.
 - Close your curtains and leave the lights on when you are out in the evening.
- Remove temptation. Don't leave valuables, such as your lap top or wallet, in view of a window or within reach of a door.
 - Register your valuable property at **www.immobilise.com** or keep an inventory including description, serial number and photograph of each item.
 - Use an ultra violet pen or forensic marking product to 'mark' all your valuable items. This makes them identifiable if they are stolen and may also deter a potential thief. Place stickers on your door and windows to make it clear that your property is marked.
 - Take extra care in holiday time, when your accommodation is likely to be empty. If you can, take all valuables home.



Mark valuable items with your name and postcode to make them identifiable

Crime prevention for students



Register your bicycle to prevent theft and aid recovery if it is stolen

If you own a bicycle, follow these top tips to keep it safe:

- Register your bike at **www.immobilise.com** or **www.bikeregister.com**
- Use a property marking product to safeguard your bike from theft. Make sure the mark or tag is clearly visible.
- Invest in a good bike lock. Visit **www.soldsecure.com** or ask in your local bike shop.
- Always secure your bicycle, even when leaving it for just a few minutes.
- Avoid parking your bike in isolated or dimly lit areas.
- When buying a second-hand bike make sure the seller owns it! If there are security markings on the frame check these with the police.

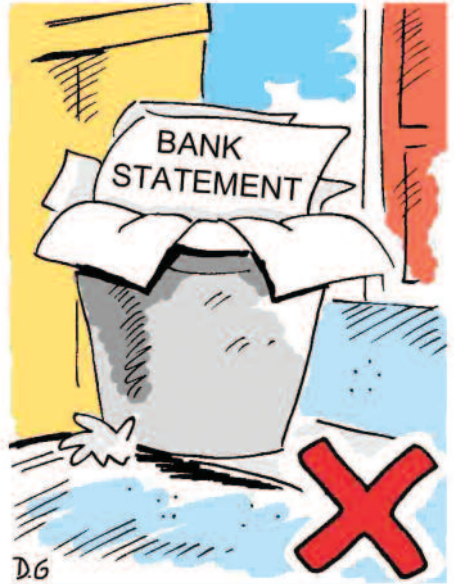
Crime prevention for students

Avoiding identity theft

Recent years have seen a massive growth in identity theft. Anyone who makes transactions using 'plastic' or shops on the Internet is at risk.

Follow these tips to minimise the risks:

- If possible, shred old bills and bank statements before disposing of them.
- Cancel lost or stolen cards immediately.
- Check your bank and credit card statements carefully and report any suspicious transactions to your bank.
- Only conduct transactions with secure websites.
- Never use public computers to access personal information.



Take extra care disposing of personal documents

Finally, find out who your local neighbourhood police officer is and save the Surrey Police 24 hour number – **0845 125 2222** – in your mobile phone.

For more crime prevention advice visit **www.surrey.police.uk**

Contacting Surrey Police

For non-emergency calls or to contact your local police officer call **0845 125 2222*** or **01483 571212**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Always dial **999** in an emergency.

If you have hearing difficulties or speech impairment, our minicom number is **18000** or **01483 539999**.

* The cost of calls from landlines and mobiles may vary. Surrey Police does not profit from the provision of this number.