BRUKEELE SURVIVAL GUIDE 2013
(Version 1.0)
Part I: Pre-departure.

# ▲ IMPORTANT ▼

- **Passport Photos** – extremely useful! Max. 15 copies.

- **Certificates & your important documents.** Keele has recently been checking VISAs of International students, so it is best to bring important (original if possible) certs that are relevant to your VISA, esp. English/IELTS result. *** *If you are under the Brunei Govt Scholarship, please bring relevant documents that are useful.*

- ***Your University CAS/ Acceptance letter*** (please carry them in hand to be used during Arrivals at the Custom once you arrived in Uk if you are a new student in Uk)**.**

# ▲FOOD▼

Bring ***instant food*** for the first few weeks of settling down in Keele. Entirely up to you but <u>best advised</u> *foods that cannot be bought/found in UK*

- **Instant Noodles** - Indomee (it's the Indonesian version, not Malaysian as what we have in Brunei) and Maggi Curry/Ayam can be found in most oriental shops.

- **Milo/Teh Tarik** in packets. (A small tin of Milo powder mix costs about 4 pounds there. There are a variety of hot chocolate drinks there though)

- **A huge jar of Nutella** - As it was found out the nutella sold in Uk is **NOT SUITABLE FOR HALAL DIETS.**

- **"Perencah"** - of varieties of nasi goreng, vegetable taster, Aji-no-moto, Belacan, Soups, Chicken stock, Brunei type curry powder. ***(Please pack, seal, wrap them properly to avoid spoilages and waste)***

# ▲KITCHENWARE ▼

You ***do not need to bring utensils and plates from Brunei***; you can get them cheap in the UK unless you prefer plastic plates/cups (you can bring them from Brunei but just enough for 2 would do).

Below are what's best to bring:
*** ***NOT NECESSARY. Only if you must & if you prefer types from Brunei***

· **Rice Cooker (with the spoon & cup if necessary)** – Small/medium would do so you won't add up too much weigh. They're quite expensive in Uk.

· **Small Kettle** (Serves one/If you want one in your room) ***

· **Cutting** (kitchen) knives ***

· **Spoons and forks** ***

Places to get kitchenware: Morrisons, Wilkinson, Dune-Elm & Tesco.

# ▲ CLOTHES ▼

· **DO NOT BRING A LOT OF CLOTHES (*only your necessities*)** as UK is known for its shopping craze, but don't bring almost nothing either.

· **DO NOT BUY WINTER CLOTHING/GEARS FROM BRUNEI**. It only adds extra unneeded weight to your luggage. They're cheaper (& cuter!) in UK.

· **Bring 1 OR 2 Cara Melayu/Baju kurong.** (For special occasions such as Islamic & Bruneian celebrations/Junjung Ziarah)

· **Praying (Sembahyang) Necessities;** Praying mat, Al-Quran & Yassin (if your prefer book types & ***please handle them with care***)

· **A Hoodie/Jacket to go through Sept/Oct cold** – just enough till you get your first Uk jacket/coat.

# ▼ BEDDING ▲

· It is **NOT NECESSARY TO BRING THEM (BEDDING SHEETS) FROM BRUNEI +** you can get cheap beddings in Uk.

· The bed & pillow sheets will be provided by Keele Uni Accommodation ***however it is upon request and there will be payment.*** *** Please check your Accommodation Contract in your Keele eVision. Please note this is a recent development (For 2013/2014 contracts) by the Accommodations Office so we wouldn't be able to give you feedback on it. ***

# ▲STATIONARIES ▼

· ***MUST*** **– Laptop / Pendrive / Hardrive.**

· ***Pens & Pencils*** **are BEST ADVISED TO BE BOUGHT FROM BRUNEI.** Of course there are stationaries in Uk but they're cheaper and you have more choices compared getting them in UK. **NOTE:** ***(If you prefer ink types, it is advised to wrap them properly and separately to prevent spillage)***

Known Stationaries shops are Wilkinson, WH Smith or any supermarket.

# ▲ TOILETRIES ▼

· ***Gayung – MUST!*** **(**You can use small bottles while travelling *OR* if you're lazy to add weigh to your luggage – for your own use at halls/houses *OR* small plastics heating/pouring pans that can be used as Gayung is available at Poundland**)**

· Small bottles of your personal grooming tool, ***enough for settling in.***

· It would be handy to bring a pack or two extras ***if you prefer brands THAT ARE ONLY AVAILABLE IN ASIA/BRUNEI.*** If otherwise, Amazon probably has them. You can always post them but it won't be cheap.

*** End of Part I: Pre–Departure ***

• • •

# ▼ TAKE NOTE! ▲

We would like to advise you to be aware of airline regulations and carefully plan a safe departure ☺♥

- Remember to ***checklist all your pre-departure necessities***!
- ***Laptops should be hand carried*** **so are your important documents*as stated.***
- Medical check results/x-rays **do NOT have to be hand carried.**

***End of Part II: Departure***



## Welcome to United Kingdom!

# ▼ TRANSPORT TO A: LONDON OR B:KEELE ▲

# A: TO LONDON

**A.** If you are **staying in London for a few days (**Do not use Roseville taxi if you're going to London for a few days! **Just get the standby taxis or you can arrange a pick-up online)**:

- With family - best to get a **taxi/rent a car to London** (according to your destination hotel/Brunei Hall in Paddington)
- With group of friends **- Car pool a taxi** (atleast 3 people) OR go on **Heathrow Express** to Paddington.

Useful websites for airport cabs quotes:

- http://www.airporttaxis-uk.co.uk/
- http://www.heathrowairport.com/transport-and-directions/taxis-and-minicabs
- http://www.londonheathrowcars.com/

P/s: If in doubt, do Google and do your own research. Above are only few suggestions.

**********

You can straight away go **to Brunei Hall, in Paddington**, - if you wish to register yourself and get a BSU card (important for your BH Stays and huge Brunei events) ASAP. It also can be done when you go to London after settling in Keele. **NOT IMMEDIATE BUT A MUST.**

**********

# ▼ GETTING AROUND LONDON▲

· ***Get an Oyster card***:

Used both at subways and London buses - Can be bought at Subway Stations & small shops.

· If you are an ***Apple user***, best advice to download these two apps***: Citymapper (London) and Tubemap*** to get around.

· ***Android users*** can also download apps for getting around London: ***Citymapper - London Transport*** and ***London Underground Tube Map.***

· Most ***halal restaurants*** are available around **Bayswater,** there are also around Paddington. ***BananaTree, Melur, Bonda Restaurant, Pak Awi, Tinsel Town, Chicken Cottage, Rasa Sayang, Noodle Oodle London, C&R are to name a few.*** If you have friends already studying in UK, ask a list of London eating places so it will be convenient for your family and you. All you need to do is google "Name of restaurant + London (+ Halal/Malay cuisine)" – In Shaa Allah, you are good to go. J

# B: TO KEELE

***** ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234] / ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234] *****

**B.** If you are **going in Keele / Stoke-On-Trent straight away**:

· With family/group of friends: **best to get a taxi – BOOK/CALLED IN ADVANCE. (Roseville Taxi: +441782631234)**

**Or rent a car to Keele – BEST FOR WITH FAMILIES W INTERNATIONAL DRIVING LICENCE** (according to your hotel or straight to Keele Uni for registration.) // you can get rental cars at the airport. It doesn't hurt to Google if you'f like to know more details.

· With group of friends:

○ **Car pool a taxi** (atleast 3 people)

Route:

**Straight from Heathrow Airport to Keele University** – best to call the cabs, BOOK/CALLED IN ADVANCE. (**Roseville Taxi: +441782631234**)

○ OR **TRAIN** (From Heathrow - Paddington - London Euston - Stoke-On-Trent // Call a cab to send you to Keele University)

Route:

1. From Heathrow to (/Paddington if using **HE*** then to) Euston Station – **Take Heathrow Express* to Paddington, then get a cab to Euston Station** OR **You can straight away go to Euston Station using a cab**
2. From Euston Station to Stoke-On-Trent – Using the train, you can choose the most likely available train that goes to Stoke-On-Trent which are **Virgins Train**(http://www.virgintrains.co.uk/ Faster/ < 2 hrs / expensive) OR **London Midland Trains** (http://www.londonmidland.com/ Slower / abt 3 hrs / cheaper)
3. Stoke-on-Trent Station to Keele University/Halls/Hotel – Call the cab, cheapest cabs in SOT is **ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234].**

○ OR **by COACH** by National Express (5 hrs++ / Also best booked in advance) You will **arrive at Hanley, City Centre** therefore you still need to call the Cab to Keele University. **ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234]**[http://www.nationalexpress.com/wherewego/airports/heathrow-airport.aspx]

**********

You can straight away go **to Brunei Hall, in Paddington**, - if you wish to register yourself and get a BSU card (important for your BH Stays and huge Brunei events) ASAP. It also can be done when you go to London after settling in Keele. **NOT IMMEDIATE BUT A MUST.**

**********

# ▼ WHAT'S NEXT? WHAT'S BEST? ▲

## · I M P O R T A N T!

**IF YOU ARE UNDER THE BRUNEI GOVT SCHOLARSHIP**, YOU WILL BE ***PICKED UP BY OFFICIALS AT THE AIRPORT*** **BUT *** FROM LONDON TO KEELE IS ACCORDING/ UP TO YOU**.

· IF YOU ARE GOING TO STRAIGHT TO KEELE UNIVERSITY, SOT, **BEST TO USE TAXI (in numbers) OR COACH (if alone or < 3 ppl)**.

· IF YOU ARE CALLING THE TAXI, PLEASE **PROVIDE THEM THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, NUMBER OF LUGGAGES FOR YOUR CONVIENIENCE**. This is due to huge number of bags Bruneians tends to bring! **ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234]**

· YOU **CAN ALSO ASK THEM TO PICK YOU UP AT BRUNEI HALL/LONDON** (IF BY ANY CHANCE YOU ARE STAYING IN LONDON FOR A FEW NIGHTS) PROVIDING ALSO PASSENGER & LOADS DETAILS. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE BH'S ADDRESS. **ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234]**

· CALL IN ADVANCE TO GET QUOTES! **ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234]**

- **PHONES/INTERNET:**

***Best advised to get O2 or 3*** – they have the most service around Keele honestly and can be bought from any convenient stores or their own stores if you happen to be at huge shopping places. For any further details of plans and tariff you can check at their respective websites: http://www.o2.co.uk/ / http://www.three.co.uk/

- *For cheaper hotel room rates*, **PLEASE BOOK THEM IN ADVANCE THROUGH ONLINE OR THEIR OWN WEBSITES, WHETHER THEY'RE HOTELS IN LONDON OR IN KEELE!**[http://www.booking.com] / If in doubt, you can always google "London Hotels, Paddington" or "Hotels in Stoke-On-Trent".

***End of Part III: Arrival***

•
•
•

BRUKEELE SURVIVAL GUIDE 2013

Part IV: Coming to Keele.

# *Welcome to Stoke-On-Trent!*
# *Home to BruKeele!*

## ▼ REGISTRATION & ENROLMENT▲

As soon as you arrived in Keele (on a Freshers' week/Orientation Week), look for "Freshers' Guide"

**Please Register yourself (@ The Chancellor's Building), get your:**

1. **Keele Card.**
2. **Keys to your accommodation.**
3. **BRP Visa**

FYI: Some halls use keys to enter their blocks, some Keele Card and individual rooms have their own individual keys (or sometimes same key to block & room). So it is important to get them first. If you arrived on Orientation week, you should be able to pick your keys to your room during registration. If you unable to attend orientation week, keys to your room can be picked at The Accommodation Office @ Darwin Building.

# ▼ MOVING IN▲

1. **If you are staying at *a house/off-campus*:**

Get a cab to your place. Make sure you ***carefully plan your meet up with your landlord and etc***.

**ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234]**

2. **If you are staying at the *halls (Keele University Campus):***

· There will be vans (On Orientation Week) that will help you to go to your accommodation ***according to your allocated halls, do take note of your Block***. (They won't carry your bags to your room fyi)

· ***Take advantage of the emptiness of your halls***. Local students won't arrive just yet, so take your pick on fridge / freezer/ cupboard space @ the kitchen. Don't be shy and don't wait up for your friends or you'll be squeezing everything in a tiny space.

· ***On-Campus facilities includes***:

1. **Launderettes** – Each halls have their own laundry area. Cost about £2.50 +/- for wash & £1 for drying.
2. **Islamic Centre** – This is the surau which is available only @ Barnes Hall area.
3. **Social Spaces** – Each halls have their own social spaces. sofas, TV, games, vending machines etc. A nice place to just chill and get together.

# ▼ PRAYING▲

- ***There's a surau at the Barnes Hall area*** where the Friday prayers take place as well. But you can only access it if you register your card to enter it. Click here to register you card:

http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyatkeele/accommodation/prospectivestudents/livingoncampus/islamiccentreaccess/

- For ***Kiblat***:

**a.** You can to ask someone from the Keele Islamic Society OR

**b.** Check the internet for where the needle of your compass should be pointing at. It's at 118 degree from North OR

**c.** Use a reliable Islamic/Muslim App on your Smartphone

# ▼ GETTING A BANK A/C ▲

To open a bank account, you will ***need to get a letter from the University before going to the Bank of your choice***. Once you've opened your account, you then need to wait for another 1-2weeks for a letter (with your debit/credit card) from the bank. Only then will you be able to activate your account/card. Bank options: Santander, Lloyds, Barclays, HSBC, Natwest.

****FOR SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS**, you will have A LOT of money in-hand. I would advise you guys to not spend it all. WHY?

- **Accommodation** – Eventhough your room costs 2++/month, you will be paying the university by instalment. That is:

**§ 40% (of the total amount) in October**
**§ 40% in January**
**§ & 20% in May.**
So please make sure that you do not overspend when you first arrive as you will be needed to pay about 900-1300 in your first instalment (depending on which hall you will be staying in).

- You will be given 2/3 months allowance in advance (just before you leave for UK) and you will only start getting your allowance again in December. Manage your money wisely.

# ▼ GETTING AROUND STOKE-ON-TRENT! ▲

There are 4 area you need to get familiar with which are:
1) **Newcastle-Under-Lyme Town**
2) **Shelton Area (For halal necessities)**
3) **Stoke**
4) **Hanley City center**

## N E W C A S T L E – U N D E R – L Y M E

It is ***15 minutes by bus***, ***5 minutes by taxi*** – from Keele University. It is the nearest place for you to get your daily needs / groceries & etc.

- ***Wilkinsons.*** This is where you can get almost all of your kitchenware, or bed linens etc. at very reasonable prices! There's a bigger one in Hanley as well if you'd want more choices. J
- ***Poundland*** (everything's £1),
- ***Morrisons.*** A huge supermarket! Nearest to Keele for your groceries shopping.
- ***99p store***
- ***Bodycare*** (Cheap toiletries)
- ***Home Bargains*** (miscellaneous things, and very cheap too).
- ***Iceland*** (frozen food store) you can get cheap frozen foods and a whole lot options too.
- ***Argos!*** You can take a look at the range of things they offer at www.argos.co.uk

Known familiar restaurants at this location are **Art of Siam (Thai cuisine)** / **Costa**. Of course there are some more but these are just to name a few. J

***

## S T O K E

It is ***20 (+/-) minutes by bus***, ***5 (+/-) minutes by taxi*** – from Keele University. It is a small town just as Newcastle-Under-Lyme but we rarely go there just passing by. If you'd like to go to ***Sainsbury*** you can stop by Stoke! & there is a sushi place at Stoke called ***Miso Japanese Restaurant.*** J

***

## S H E L T O N  A R E A
## (H A L A L  N E C E S S I T I E S)

It is ***45 (+/-) minutes by bus, 8 (+/-) minutes by taxi*** – from Keele University, ***8 (+/-) minute walk from the Stoke-On-Trent railway station***. It is the nearest place for you to get your halal necessities** (meat & other halal products at its max) and halal restaurants* are also available around this area. To name a few are:

- ***Pak Foods****
- ***First Choice****
- ***Al-Murshid****
- Karahi Master*

There are also halal takeaways around Keele and they're just a call away or a click away through an online website. [http://www.just-eat.co.uk/] Enter away your post code & you are good to go! Bite-to-Eat is one of the good ones.

***

## H A N L E Y  C I T Y  C E N T R E

It is ***45 (+/-) minutes by bus***, ***15 (+/-) minutes by taxi*** – from Keele University. It is the furthest place from Keele University. There is a shopping place called The Potteries, if you're planning to do some

real clothes shopping, get yourself here! J Ooo & there's Tesco in Hanley! They have shops you will be familiar with as mentioned in the Newcastle-Under-Lyme section. To name a few new shops are:

- **Tesco** (about 5 +/- minute walk from The Potteries)
- **Primark** (In the Potteries)
- **Hanley Fish & Chips** (Halal restaurant @ Hanley)

# ▼ TRANSPORT▲

## ● ● ● B U S ● ● ●

You will be using bus to get around Keele University (***First Bus, around campus***), all around stoke; you have two options:

***First Bus 3 or X3*** for more information on tickets, routes and offers please check the link below:
[http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/staffordshire_cheshire/journey_planning/keele_uni/]
or ***Baker Bus X75***: (as of for this, recently it was stated it no longer operates on the website)

## ● ● ● T A X I ● ● ●

Most Bruneians will use Roseville. There are other taxi services available too but Roseville is the most reasonable in terms of price! J **ROSEVILLE TAXI [+441782631234]**
If you'd like to more know other cabs provider, download the ***"Keele University App"*** on your smartphones and click on ***"Transport".***

*** E n d o f P a r t IV: C o m i n g t o K e e l e ***

•
•
•

B R U K E E L E S U R V I V A L G U I D E 2 0 1 3

Part V: Uk Transport.

Public transport is major in UK. You need to be familiar with the use of train, buses and other forms of public transport not just around Keele but to other places too! J

## A. TRAIN SERVICES;

**YOUNG PERSON'S RAILCARD: 16-25 RAILCARD**
http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/

If you're planning to travel anywhere by train, you must get yourself this the next time you're about to buy a train ticket. It gives you 33% off train ticket prices and that saves you a lot!

**IMPORTANT**! YOU NEED TO PRESENT YOUR RAILCARD DURING TICKET PURCHASE & DURING THE TRAIN RIDE WHEN THE CONDUCTOR CHECKS YOUR TICKET. MAKE SURE YOU ALWAYS HAVE THEM IN HAND ALL TIMES OF YOUR TRAVEL.

You need:
1) The railcard form (Get it at the Railway station)
2) A passport photo
3) Your passport
4) £30 to pay and it last for a whole year. (You can also buy a 3-year Railcard exclusively online for just £70, saving you £20 over the cost of three 1-year Railcards.)

## B. TRAIN SERVICES;

**TRAIN RIDE TO LONDON OR ELSE WHERE!**

www.londonmidland.com
www.thetrainline.com
www.nationalrail.co.uk
www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk
www.virgintrain.co.uk

I'm sure you all need to get to London from time to time OR other places. From Stoke-On-Trent to London (/ vice versa), with a railcard, Virgins train & London Midland provides a direct train ride. £41(+/-) and £21 (+/-) respectively, open return ticket, with railcard. Virgin takes about less than 2hr and London Midland almost 3 hrs.

*Open return – valid for a month
*return – same day return
If you buy your train tickets in advance (like, a week or 2 before), you will also save a fortune. Make sure you are well aware of your specified train times (and seats if reserved).

You can also get buy your tickets on smart phone apps and you just need to pick them on the departure station or any station you of your choice.

If you are not very familiar with London transport, make sure get yourself an Oyster card to get around London. Oyster card can be used on the tubes and buses! For more info:
http://www.tfl.gov.uk/oyster

## C. COACH RIDE

www.nationalexpress.com

Not many of you will be a huge fan of this, but coaches can be useful and cheap at times. If you're not a huge fan of carrying around your luggages to anywhere, get the coach! They'll store them in the huge compartment inside the bus so you don't need to worry much about it.

If you buy your tickets in advance as well, you could get a single ticket to London for just £5. But be warned, it'll take you almost 4 hours just to get there. So if you're not fussed about long journeys, take this. Besides, you can just sleep!

***End of Part V: Uk Transport***