

Royal Holloway: A Guide for Commuting Students

Will you be commuting to Royal Holloway?

You can find helpful tips and tricks to make your commute smoother and stress-free.

Planning, Preparing, Predicting

Being a commuting student can often be expensive and challenging.

But being prepared can help cut down on costs and avoid the stress!

Incorporate these three simple methods before starting your commute:

- **Plan:** Always plan your journey in advance. Familiarise yourself with your route, journey duration, and method of transportation. If you're driving, consider available parking options on campus. We've got 870 parking spaces, but they fill up fast! ([see car park map](#)).
- **Prepare:** Prepare for your journey the night before. This will allow you to double-check everything and make adjustments if needed. Whether it's packing your bag, making lunch, or finishing an assignment, being prepared ensures your day starts smoothly.
- **Predict:** For those commuting by car, expect traffic delays, roadworks, or other disruptions. If you're using public transport, anticipate potential cancellations or delays. A great tip? Leave a little earlier to cushion against unexpected issues.

Be sure to check out the [Travel To and From Campus](#) pages on the intranet for all the information you need on the best ways to travel to campus. You can also find details of all the [travel discounts](#) available to Royal Holloway students, including the 18+ Student Oyster Card, 16-25 Railcard, and reduced rates on some local buses.

Carpooling

We also encourage you to find commuting friends either for your public transport journey or through carpooling. This helps make journeys less lonely and stressful (especially when faced with delays!). Carpooling can also help you save by sharing on petrol costs.

Several schools within Royal Holloway have WhatsApp chat groups for commuters. If you're interested in such initiatives, consider [joining the Student Union's commuting students' community](#)

Cycling

Cycling is a great way to get around Royal Holloway and the local area. We're lucky to be in an area with dedicated cycle paths linking Egham and Englefield Green to our neighbouring towns and villages.

Royal Holloway has over 600 spaces to park your bike throughout the Main Campus (see the [Cycle Facilities Map](#)). Many of these spaces are covered so your bike stays safe and dry. Showers are available for all cyclists at the Sports Centre or in Founder's East 127.

Eating on Campus

Each of the eateries on campus has its own style and character, and there's something to suit every budget, taste, mood, and dietary need.

Take a look at the venues in [Founder's, The Hub](#), and [elsewhere on campus](#). You will also find delicious options in the food hall right outside the Students' Union building on most weekdays.

You can follow [RHFoodandDrink](#) social media accounts to get special offers during term time.

The Essentials

When commuting, only bring the essentials for the day:

- Laptop & charger
- Course materials / books
- Planner or diary
- Water bottle
- Rain gear / umbrella
- Lunch / snacks

Prioritise your health and wellbeing throughout your university journey! Turn your commute into an enjoyable routine by reading, listening to podcasts, or learning something new. You could even unwind with your favourite playlist!

Dealing with Lateness

Give yourself plenty of time in case there are delays. But if your commute makes you late for class, try not to let this stress you out! We encourage you to inform your lecturers and seminar convenors at the beginning of the term if you have a long or tricky commute to campus, so that they can be mindful of any lateness. Your lecturers understand that transport can be unpredictable, so if you explain your circumstances to them, you won't be judged for it. Basically, go to class even if you are late because of your commute. Your lecturer will understand.

The exception to this is exams. So make sure you plan way in advance and arrive well in advance. If, despite your attempt to arrive on time, you arrive late for an examination, you must report directly to the Invigilator in the examination venue. If you arrive more than half an hour late, you may be permitted to complete the examination; however, your work will only be marked at the discretion of the Department Assessment Board.

Travelling as a commuting student

Trains and Buses

The nearest railway station to Royal Holloway is Egham, next to Egham town centre. Trains from Egham to London Waterloo take about 40 minutes. You can book train tickets to any railway station in the UK from Egham using the [National Rail](#) website.

Look into your various travel options independently to see where you can make savings. For example, if you're travelling on a long route via train, it may be worth looking into 'split ticket' options. You can use the [Raileasy](#) website to find cheaper routes for you.

Royal Holloway also has a £1 flat fare bus service operated by Diamond South East that goes to and from Egham Station. See the timetable [here](#). Two local bus services operated by White Bus run outside of Royal Holloway and serve the bus stops on the A30 (just outside the main entrance). They are as follows:

- [441](#): Staines – Egham – Englefield Green
- [500](#): Staines – Egham – Sunningdale – Windlesham – Camberley – Frimley Park Hospital

Cash, contactless or tickets bought on the White Bus phone app ([App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)) are all acceptable on the services. There is a 33% student discount on services in Surrey and a special £1 fare from Royal Holloway either to Egham or Englefield Green, but you will need to show a valid student ID card. Period tickets including weekly and four-weekly passes are available for any students living slightly further afield.

Cars

Royal Holloway has parking spaces on campus, but you need to apply for a [parking permit](#) to use them. These are available at no charge to all students resident over 1.5 miles from the University. These permits allow you to park in car parks 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 14a ([see car park map](#)).

You should not expect that a parking spot will always be available! Royal Holloway has approximately 870 parking spaces, and grants 3,500-4,000 permits each year. The main car parks (4, 12, and 14) are usually full by 9:30-10am, however this does fluctuate during the day. Usually Tuesdays and Thursdays are the busiest days for parking, while Wednesday and Friday afternoons are typically quieter.

If you arrive at campus and no parking is available, consider using [JustPark](#) to find an alternative (paid) spot near campus. Additional paid alternatives for the most desperate of situations are further afield, including [Egham Waspe Farm Car Park](#), [Egham Hummer Road Car Park](#), and [Egham Station Car Park](#). These are a 20-30 minute walk from campus, so you might want to use the [£1 bus](#) from Egham Station to expedite the journey.

Maximise your time on campus

Staying on campus after your classes can enhance your university experience. Socialise with classmates, visit friends, attend society events, or even enjoy an evening out. Royal Holloway offers various dining options and study spaces, allowing you to make the most of your day. Just because you're commuting doesn't mean you have to miss out on the full university experience!

There are plenty of places to relax, have a cup of coffee or a snack, or simply meet with friends. Visit our new Student Lounge in the Windsor Building, open Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm. Brand new for 2024/25, the lounge is a place to meet other students travelling in and relax during your free time, and there is a microwave you can use to heat up meals brought from home.

Also, look out for regular events such as the Relax and Refresh hour, where you can grab a hot drink and enjoy some well-earned downtime.

The Student Union's main building (ground floor) also has a couple of microwaves, as well as plenty of tables, chairs, and couches. And Shilling Building has lots of space and a comfortable seating area. You can also make the most of your time on campus between formal teaching times with our [24/7 library](#) or be inspired to study in our historic Victorian Reading Room, or, weather permits, outside in our 135-acre woodland. Our [cafes](#) are open throughout the day, with some open early morning and into the evening. You are welcome to socialise in The Hub even if you don't intend to buy anything!

The best way to meet people when not living in student accommodation is to chat to students on your course, volunteer, or join societies.

Our 150 [societies and sports clubs](#) hold activities and events at various times, with Wednesday afternoons clear of lectures and seminars so you can get involved in other activities, such as sports matches.

If the timing of all of these activities and events is inconvenient to you, consider the Student Union's give-it-a-go events stream where you can find plenty of free daytime and non-alcoholic events. Search for "give it a go" [here](#) and you will find such events. You can also search "commut" (to include commuter and commuting search) via [that same link](#) for a list of dates for commuter coffee mornings in the Student Lounge.

Our [sports centre and fitness suite](#) is open to all our students, and a range of exercise classes take place throughout the day and evening. Why not become a massive unit and deadlift 200kg? You can also access health services with our on-campus NHS health centre and support from our Wellbeing teams.