

Making the Transition to University

Activity

Matthew Grant

This activity encourages you to familiarize yourself with your university campus. The amount of time it takes will depend on your individual circumstances (map-reading abilities, usual pace of moving, whether you like to stop and look around, and so on) and the layout of your university campus.

Context and aim

Becoming familiar with the physical space of the university will help you to feel confident around campus from an early stage of your studies. This orienteering exercise aims to help you make sure that you know how to negotiate the spaces and access the resources you will need most often.

Preparation

Download a campus map! Look at it and identify any buildings that might be important.

Task

- 1 Go to the university! This might sound simple, but the first exercise is for you to plan your journey. How do you make the journey? It might be a simple stroll from your home or university

accommodation, or it may involve a bus, a train, or a car journey. How long does it take? What time do you need to leave to get there if you have a specific start time?

- 2 Once at the university, pick a room you need to go to. This might be a lecture theatre, the office of your personal tutor, or the central services of your school/department/faculty. Do you know how to get there? What room number is it? Does the building have a name? Where is the building? What's it near? Could you find it if you got lost?
- 3 Time for a snack! Go and find somewhere where you can get something to eat. Does the university have different food options? Do you know where to buy a sandwich or a bar of chocolate? How about something healthy and filling?
- 4 Fill up your water bottle. Where are the water fountains you can use?
- 5 Find somewhere you can sit and work quietly – the library is usually perfect for this. There may be other study spaces across the university. It's always good to know where you can go to work and not be disturbed.
- 6 Access the library catalogue. Do you know how to access the material on your reading lists? Find one of the following journal articles:
 - Teri Chettiar, '“More than a contract”: The emergence of a state-supported marriage welfare service and the politics of emotional life in post-1945 Britain', *Journal of British Studies*, 55:3 (2016), pp. 566–91.
 - Matthew Grant, 'The trial of Neville Heath, the popular press, and the construction of the memory of the Second World War in Britain, 1945–1946', *The English Historical Review*, 133:564 (2018), pp. 1155–77.
 - Rhys Jones, 'Time warps during the French Revolution', *Past & Present*, 254:1 (2022), pp. 87–125.
 - Claire Langhamer, 'The meanings of home in postwar Britain', *Journal of Contemporary History*, 40:2 (2005), pp. 341–62.
- 7 Go to the University library (if you're not there already!). Access the library catalogue again and find the location for one of the following books (your library should hold at least one of them):
 - E. H. Carr, *What is History?* (Harmondsworth, 1962).
 - Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (Harvard University Press, 1984).

- Ludmilla Jordanova, *History in Practice*, 3rd edn (Bloomsbury, 2019).
 - Keith Thomas, *Religion and the Decline of Magic* (Penguin, 1971).
- 8 Go to the Students' Union. Where can you find out about the clubs and societies that are on offer? Do any of them seem of interest? Where and when do they next meet?
 - 9 It's the end of the day! Head back home. How long does it take? Is the journey easier or harder than the morning?