



LIVERPOOL HOPE
UNIVERSITY

175 YEARS OF ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE

YOUR HOME FROM HOME

STUDENTS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND TALK
ABOUT LIFE AT LIVERPOOL HOPE.



www.hope.ac.uk

FROM NORTHERN IRELAND TO LIVERPOOL HOPE



WELCOME

Liverpool Hope University is home to many students from Northern Ireland. In this guide, some of them share their Liverpool Hope story. We also have tips and facts we hope you'll find helpful as you decide where to study.

FIRST, LET'S TACKLE ONE OF THE BIG ISSUES – FINANCE!

After people choose which course to study, the next big question is home or away? Often the reduced cost of staying at home is the deal breaker. **But how much does a student loan cost to repay?**

Answer: Nothing until you earn over £19,390 a year after you have graduated. Any outstanding loan is cancelled 25 years after you started paying it.

This table gives the most recent **repayment figures** for NI students.*

Annual Salary	Monthly Loan Repayment
Up to £19,390	£0
£21,000	£12
£24,000	£35
£27,000	£57
£30,000	£80

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN A STUDENT LOAN?

TUITION FEES

£9,250 a year, paid straight to the university.



MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

This ranges from **£3,750 - £6,780** depending on your household income.

A **Maintenance Grant** also helps with your living costs throughout the academic year. Unlike the Maintenance Loan, you do not need to repay this. Your eligibility and how much you could get depends on your household income and will affect the amount of a **Maintenance Loan** you borrow. Please check Student Finance NI for further information.

Liverpool Hope also has a range of scholarships and bursaries available, and provides students with opportunities for paid work on campus through Hope Works.

**All information correct at time of publication - September 2021.*

LOCATION

WITH AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON THE DOORSTEP AND JUST A TWO-HOUR TRAIN JOURNEY FROM CENTRAL LONDON, LIVERPOOL IS ONE OF THE UK'S BEST-CONNECTED CITIES.



WHY STUDY AT LIVERPOOL HOPE?



Our degree courses. The quality of the courses that we offer and the support that our highly qualified academics provide.

As well as being one of the **friendliest cities in the UK**, Liverpool is one of the most inexpensive for students to live in.



Easy to get here and easy to get home. Liverpool John Lennon Airport has flights **departing daily to Belfast's airports and to the City of Derry Airport**. Our Hope Park campus is located just **15 minutes by car from the airport**, and is on several bus routes. Trains run directly from the airport to the centre of Liverpool. There are also **two ferry crossings a day** between Belfast and Liverpool.

Travelling around the City is easy and inexpensive, not least, as we have a **free shuttle bus that runs between our campuses**.



Top university in Liverpool for **student satisfaction***.

**The Complete University Guide 2022*

13% of our student population are from Northern Ireland - Liverpool Hope feels like a home from home for our students from Northern Ireland.



A scenic view of the Liverpool waterfront. In the foreground, several boats are docked, including a prominent yellow and pink boat. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the buildings. The background features a mix of architecture, including historic brick buildings and modern glass-fronted structures. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

A CITY TO CALL YOUR OWN

THIS IS LIVERPOOL

Liverpool is a city like no other. From world-famous architecture and magnificent museums, to music legends revolutionising popular culture, Liverpool has always been a place of creativity. Through spectacular festivals, dramatic sporting attractions and unique art, the city continues to be at the heart of UK culture, attracting millions of visitors every year. There is something for everyone in the city that has been voted one of Britain's best travel destinations (*Telegraph*, 2018).

MUSIC

It's impossible to imagine Liverpool without music – or music without Liverpool. Birthplace of the Beatles, the world's most famous pop group, the city is home to a host of first-class festivals, including Sound City, Liverpool Irish Festival, and world-leading dance festival Creamfields. The city's M&S Bank Arena Liverpool hosts everything from big name acts like Rihanna and the Arctic Monkeys, to major events like the MTV Europe Music Awards.



SPORT

With the Grand National, golf and of course – football, there are plenty of sporting events to keep even the most avid sports fan entertained. Liverpool is home to two Premier League football teams; what better place to come and watch the match?



CULTURE

Liverpool is home to a range of world-class art galleries and museums, including Tate Liverpool and the International Slavery Museum. Liverpool Empire Theatre attracts all the latest touring theatre productions, while the Playhouse, Everyman, Royal Court and Unity theatres offer a rich and varied programme of classic and contemporary productions.



SHOPPING

As well as the 42-acre Liverpool One shopping complex in the heart of the city, Liverpool boasts more than 100 independent businesses. Student-friendly shops offering one-of-a-kind pieces and vintage finds, sit alongside top high street names.





MARK BRADLEY

PGCE Primary

HOW ARE YOU FINDING THE MOVE AWAY FROM HOME?

I've never lived in England before. The furthest I've lived away from home was Belfast, but you're not really away then because you're home all the time. Moving over here, where you have to do everything for yourself, is a big wake up call, but it's been fun and I've met a lot of new people.

I'm living with four other Irish lads who all play Gaelic football for Hope as well, so that has definitely made things easier. I didn't know them before I moved here, but they're all doing Primary Education.

If you're coming over here by yourself - like I did - then straight away once you join a team, you have a miniature family.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT LIVING OVER HERE?

It's very picturesque. I'm just below Lark Lane, so it's a nice spot to go to,

and then you have Sefton Park, which is stunning to walk around. It's just a lovely city.

I've been to a couple in England and I'd say that Liverpool is one of the nicest, with lots of things to do. It's tough being away when all of your family is back home, but it's nice having your own space, and the flight home is just 30 minutes.

WHAT'S IT BEEN LIKE PLAYING GAELIC FOOTBALL FOR LIVERPOOL HOPE?

It's been super. It's such a release from school work as well, because it's so easy to get into a routine of going home and lounging about, whereas there's great facilities at Hope Park for us.

We have use of the 4G pitches every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, which is great, and it's a good way to get to meet people.

If you're coming over here by yourself - like I did - then straight away once you join a team, you have a miniature family.





NO STEREOTYPES

revision 2

If you continue to see others that you wish you did not see
please contact the person in charge of the building.

ADDRESS BY THE BUILDING

GEMMA SPARKES

BA (Hons) Tourism Management

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO STUDY AT LIVERPOOL HOPE?

The main reason I picked Hope was for the surroundings, I wanted to be able to wake up and see the greenery every day, mostly because it would remind me of my home in Northern Ireland. The maintenance and domestic staff are always working hard to keep the surroundings picturesque and beautiful.

*I picked Hope...
because it would
remind me of my
home in Northern
Ireland.*

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT WHILE AT UNIVERSITY?

Becoming the Black and Ethnic Minority Part-time Officer. This achievement has allowed me to believe in myself again after being bullied in high school for my skin colour and hair.

I'm honoured to have been voted in by my peers, to represent the voices of all Black and Ethnic Minority students within the University.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF DURING YOUR TIME AT LIVERPOOL HOPE?

I have learnt a lot about myself whilst studying at Hope, I'm a more confident and happy individual due to university life. I'm able to study a subject I love, while being situated in beautiful surroundings with the finest lecturers.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE HOPE?

I'd describe Hope in one word - family.





JOSHUA O'BRIEN

BA (Hons) English Literature and Media & Communication

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY?

I chose Hope because I went to a much larger university before this and felt underwhelmed with the support I got there. Here at Hope, the lecturers do offer great support and do care about how we are doing.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT WHILE AT UNIVERSITY?

Probably signing up for the SALA award scheme with the Careers department and getting involved with a play in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer.

The University is unreal, the facilities are great, and the people are lovely.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO LIVERPOOL?

It's such a lively city with great history for the arts and music. Liverpool's nightlife is brilliant.

Liverpool isn't mad big either - like London or Manchester - so much stuff is crammed into a great wee area. Liverpool is filled with Irish and Northern Irish people as well. Because there will be days when you are homesick, it's always good to have people who get the same inside jokes around you.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ANYONE THINKING OF COMING TO HOPE?

Do it, the University is unreal, the facilities are great, and the people are lovely - the Liverpool accent is the best accent about.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every student who joins Liverpool Hope has the opportunity to sign up for the University's Service and Leadership Award (SALA), which is an extra-curricular programme designed to recognise the value of volunteering. Students log hours that count as credits towards the award, and result in an additional reward on graduation day.







RUTH BURKE

BA (Hons) Drama & Theatre Studies and Special Educational Needs MA Performance

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO LIVERPOOL HOPE?

My two cousins were over here and a few of my friends that I played football with at home, so I had that sense that Liverpool isn't a big jump. My closest city's quite small and I live in the country, so if I was to move to London or Manchester I think I would've been a bit out of my comfort zone.

It was important for me not to be overwhelmed in a new city, and going to Hope made that move a lot easier.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES MADE AT HOPE?

It's so hard not to just mention the Gaelic team. One of my favourite memories is winning the British Division 1 Championship, because we came so close the year before - it was such a good feeling. It brings the girls so much closer because you spend the whole week together, and it's that thing where you're with a close-knit community.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS?

Try and leave home. Don't go where your friends are going because you'll make friends anywhere. People who stay in Belfast have too much of a home comfort, and you have to try and make that for yourself somewhere. The Gaelic team is my home comfort, but you don't need to go where all your friends are going to get that. You don't know unless you try. If you're scared about coming over by yourself, just do it.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND LIVERPOOL HOPE?

Being from Ireland, it was important for me not to be overwhelmed in a new city, and going to Hope made that move a lot easier. No matter where you're from, it's great to come here to a smaller university where you know you will make friends for life.

MELISSA GRINDON

BA (Hons) Dance



WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE HOME AND STUDY AT LIVERPOOL HOPE?

I knew I would have to leave Northern Ireland to specialise in Dance, as there are very few courses that focus specifically on the Arts. Where I'm from has such a small community, which is lovely, but I knew I had to move away if I wanted to pursue my degree.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT LIVERPOOL HOPE?

I love the buzz of city life. The city centre is always humming with people from all walks of life, and the Arts scene is just constantly booming!

WAS UNIVERSITY LIFE WHAT YOU EXPECTED IT TO BE?

I definitely didn't expect to be as busy as I was, but this turned out to be a real positive aspect throughout my studies. Keeping busy with activities outside of my studies, such as performing solo gigs, travelling and socialising, definitely filled the time in between my studies well.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVERPOOL HOPE?

I would say the sense of community. I felt immediately welcomed to the University, especially while studying at the Creative Campus. People pass by and always say hello, and everyone goes the extra mile to help support each other. Settling in was extremely easy, thanks to the close knit ethos of the Hope community.

Settling in was extremely easy, thanks to the close knit ethos of the Hope community.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR STUDENTS THINKING OF COMING TO LIVERPOOL HOPE?

Get involved in as much as you can! Remember that everyone else is in the same boat, and there's endless support available to you - don't be afraid to ask for it.



LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL

The Liverpool Irish Festival is an annual 10-day event celebrating the unique links between Liverpool and Ireland. Running for more than 16 years, it is the only arts and culture-led Irish festival in the UK.

The festival celebrates the Irish contribution to Liverpool's cultural identity and heritage, and features an incredible array of art, culture, performance, film, music, literature, food and drink, talks and tours. The festival typically takes place throughout October.

For further information, please visit www.liverpoolirishfestival.com



IRISH COMMUNITY CARE

- ICC are based in Liverpool city centre
- Provide support, guidance for all Irish, Irish Traveller, Gypsy Traveller communities
- Extra support network for students coming to live and learn in Liverpool:
 - Free advice and support
 - Volunteering opportunities
 - Get connected with the Irish Community in Liverpool
 - Free, fun activities - make friends!

For further information, please visit www.irishcc.net



It can be difficult being away from home so Irish Community Care was a great chance to meet people and I actually got to speak with someone who only lives a few miles down the road from me.

Jess, Social Policy & SEN BA (Hons) student



www.irishcc.net

 IrishCommunityCare1

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Liverpool Hope University, Hope Park, Liverpool, L16 9JD

T: +44 (0)151 291 3000 E: enquiry@hope.ac.uk