

# Only the Brave

## Advice for those looking to work in or visit the UK



It's one of life's great adventures: the moment you decide to pack up your suitcase, say goodbye to friends and family, and go abroad.

Whether you go to work, study or just to visit, there are plenty of good reasons to visit the UK: you can work on your English while having a good time for a start! You will also grow as person, meet new people with different perspectives, and learn to deal with unexpected situations.

So if you have an adventurous spirit and a valid passport, keep reading for insider tips collected from Spanish natives who have recently spent time in the UK.

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### Before you arrive

Take your passport, national identity card, and qualifications. Be sure to take a [European Health Card](#) with you as well. It means you can receive health care!

Prepare you CV Writing your CV before leaving home will save you both time and money. Don't forget that your native language is an advantage in the U.K., so be sure to highlight this.

If you don't have anybody to stay with, be sure to book your accommodation well in advance to make it cheaper. This accommodation will serve as an address to put on your CV and other documents.

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Don't expect English people to be Spanish. It may sound silly, but that is how so many of us react when abroad, we compare everything to our familiar life back home (just look at all the 'English Breakfast' cafes on the Costa de Sol).

One of the best reasons for traveling is the development of an open mind; just try to remember this when you have your first culture shock!

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### Once you arrive

Firstly, get a cheap, top-up phone to use in case anyone rings you for a job interview (don't forget you will need to ring them too!)

The second thing you need to do is organize a **National Insurance Number**. You need one in order to starting working in the UK.

If you do not have one, you *can* still start working, as long as you apply for one straight away.

Without a National Insurance Number, you might pay higher taxes. To apply for a number, go to <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

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### Going about getting work

There are plenty of options when it comes to looking for work; so know what you want. Are you after short term work in a bar or a restaurant, or a longer term position in a large company?

One of the best and fastest ways of finding employment is to seek out the local job centre when you arrive. Take along your CV and explain your situation. You will receive information and advice to help you in your search.

Another good thing to do is to visit an employment agency. Employment agencies often specialize in different areas, such as accountancy, I.T, or Marketing.

If you are interested in working in a particular area such I.T, make sure that is where you concentrate your initial search.

If you want to meet people, have fun and improve your English, then perhaps a job in a restaurant would be ideal. Take a walk down the local high street and give your CV to the manager of each restaurant you pass by.

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## English



There is no avoiding it!

Having a good level of English will help you to find work and live in the UK. More than that though, improving your English will help you to adapt more easily and develop confidence. It needn't be a chore though, as there are many ways to improve. Try these for starters:

- Watch T.V. It doesn't get any easier than that does it?
- Stop reading Spanish news websites and visit UK based ones instead.
- Visit a charity shop, where you will be able to buy cheap second hand books.
- Only listen to English-language music - broaden your musical horizons whilst picking up handy phrases.
- Don't just read serious newspapers, read the tabloids as well. They are easy to read, but will also teach you some handy phrases and expressions (just don't believe everything you read!).
- Most important of all; meet people!

If you have moved recently and haven't yet made new friends, why not take part in a language exchange evening?

Many pubs host these. You will improve your English in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. It's a great idea as you get to do 2 things at the same time: practice your English, and make friends!

Yes, you may feel insecure about speaking, but in the words of Albert Einstein, *'Anyone who has never made a mistake, has never tried anything new'*.

That's it; you are now ready to rock and roll!

If you follow the above tips you will greatly increase your chances of success, simply because you will be displaying the initiative and adaptability that many employers look for.

Good luck!

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### **Tips for Students**

If you are studying in the UK, money is probably a concern for you, but don't worry, because if you are careful your money will go further than you imagine.

Take a walk down any high street and you will come across an incredible amount of student discounts and last minute offers that will help you to make it through the month without missing out on the little treats that make life so enjoyable.

Food is famously expensive in the UK, but did you know that local supermarkets have daily discounts of up to 50%? Visit your local supermarket at closing time to find a half price treat!

It doesn't stop at food either. Plenty of cloths shops, bookstores, restaurants and hostels offer up to a 30% discount if you present your student ID. You can also take advantage of special discounts in cinemas, clubs and when buying travel cards (for public transport). Discounts are not always advertised, so don't be afraid to take out your ID and ask!

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly for the student abroad, you will receive [massive discounts on air travel](#) if you are studying at a University and have a Student Union card.

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### **Holidays**

If you are planning to visit the UK there are plenty of [options](#). If you are clear about what you want to do, how long you are going for and how much money you have to spend, you will be able to find ways of making your money go further.

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## **Accommodation**

Your accommodation choice will directly impact how what you can do in the rest of your holiday, so spend a little time doing some research and save yourself a lot of money!

The 2 main options for the budget travellers are Youth Hostels and Bed & Breakfasts.

Not only are Youth Hostels or Bed & Breakfasts often cheaper than hotels, but they can be great places to meet other people. They are also often found in a central location, which makes city and town exploration easier.

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## **Getting around**

The cheapest way to get around is by bus, both in the city, and also as a means of getting from city to city. If you book in advance you will be able to get some very cheap prices.

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## **Food**



Eating out is a real hobby these days in the UK. This means that no matter what your budget, you will be able to find something to suit both your pocket and your taste buds!

If you would like to savour authentic English cuisine at an affordable price (and you are over 18), one of the best options is to visit an English pub, where you will find a great selection of British beer and also an extensive menu at lower prices than those found in a restaurant.

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## **What about music?**

Britain is full of live music venues with free admission! If you decide to visit London one idea is to spend the day in Camden Market, not only will you be able to pick up some fantastic bargains, but as night falls the area really comes to life, with many up and coming bands playing concerts there.



London has some of the world's most important museums and galleries: a must-see for every visitor. Entrance to most of these museums is free! Visiting the British Museum, The National Gallery, or the Tate Modern won't cost you a penny

For more information on this , visit

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox/1373b8aa5ddff389>