

As a student, one of the most important things to do is look after yourself.



That includes when you're online.



www.getsafeonline.org

You'll have already heard this time and time again from family members, but we'll say it again. When you're at uni or college, one of the most important things to do is to take care of yourself.

Students are favourite targets for fraud and other online harms, so we've put together some top tips to help you keep safe.



Scams

emails, texts, DMs, or calls pretending to be from banks, student loans and, if you're an international student, immigration authorities, are commonplace. Can you tell them from genuine communications, especially if they're created using AI? **Always pause before clicking** links, opening attachments or giving anyone access to your accounts or devices. If you suspect a message or website is a scam, check it with the renowned fraud detection tool Ask Silver at www.getsafeonline.org/asksilver

Payments

Avoid bank transfers to pay people or businesses you don't know for purchases, accommodation, holidays or helping out someone you've met online. Whenever possible, pay by card for better protection.

Banking & finance

Keep your financial details to yourself by using trusted apps or mobile wallets for payments, and not discussing your finances with anyone but your Student Money Adviser.

Shopping

If you're buying from a website you haven't used previously, **check it's genuine** before paying or signing up. We have a variety of easy-to-use tools on our online Self-Help Tool Centre at www.getsafeonline.org/selfhelpcentre.

Accommodation

Always check new accommodation in person before paying anything. Make sure the landlord or agent is genuine, and use a credit card for deposits where you can – it's safer that way.

That's not only your health, diet and lifestyle, but making sure you protect yourself online too.



Sharing

Keep passwords, financial info and personal details confidential. And don't overshare, including personal or intimate photos or videos. **Check your location and privacy settings regularly.**

Devices & Wi-Fi

Don't leave your devices unattended, whether in the bar, on public transport or any other public place. Avoid using Wi-Fi hotspots for anything private or financial as they may not be secure.

Gambling and gaming

Gaming and betting can both get addictive. If you think either is taking over your life, consider other pastimes.

Dating

Use reputable apps and keep chats on the platform. **Not everyone online is who they say they are**, so block or say no if something seems wrong or weird.

Gut instinct

Don't do anything that makes you uncomfortable – whether it's sharing photos, getting challenged

to pranks or engaging in risky online behaviour. Don't pressure others to be irresponsible either.

Too-good-to-be-true jobs

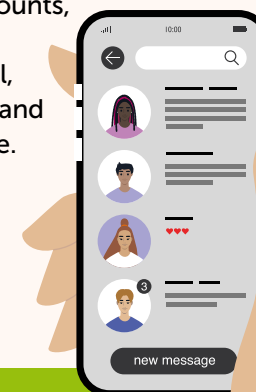
Avoid work offers promising easy cash or using your bank account for payments. These may involve you in money muling, which can result in a criminal record.

Use your tech skills the right way

If you're a keen gamer or coder, **you could be a target for cybercriminals** luring you into illegal activity. Why not consider a career in cybersecurity instead?

Showing respect

Bullying, hate speech and other abuse and radicalisation have no place online. And remember that unis and recruiters usually check social media accounts, so keep it clean, legal, respectful and responsible.



Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.

For more information and expert, easy-to-follow, impartial advice on safeguarding yourself, your family, finances, devices and workplace, visit www.getsafeonline.org

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to **Report Fraud** at www.reportfraud.police.uk or by calling **0300 123 2040**. If you are in Scotland, contact **Police Scotland** on **101**.



www.getsafeonline.org

OFFICIAL PARTNERS