

FIRST DAY AT COLLEGE

What to expect



PICTURE THIS...

So, it's your first day at college and you are ready to embrace your new educational path. You have listened to all the rumours and myths about what to expect on your first day. Being a member of staff at a local college and who has previously worked in other FE institutions, I am going to set the record straight and give you the low down on what normally takes place within a college and what to expect on your first day!

WHAT TO BRING

You should be prepared and bring stationary, lunch or lunch money and a bag that will fit any books or handouts that you get given.

You could also check your personal emails or contact the college prior to your first day to double check what you will need to bring for your course.

Double check your starter pack that you should have received through the post or email, which will explain what you need to have with you on your first day.

STEP 1 - THE BIGGER THE BETTER!

The first thing you may notice when arriving at your new college is how big it looks, and you might feel a little bit overwhelmed.

However, you will soon see a friendly face (possibly a current student) greeting you and showing you into the reception area where you will be asked to take a seat or wait for further instructions.



STEP 1 - THE BIGGER THE BETTER!

Top tips

Don't be intimidated about the size of the college, just remember the bigger the place the more to explore.

There will be staff members around the college showing you where to go.

Look out for sign posts and instructions.



STEP 2 – WHERE IS EVERYONE?

So, you have made it into the college safely and you realise its not as busy as you first thought. The reason for this is that college will normally open early for new starters and you will get the college all to yourself over the next couple of days (2-7 days depending on the college you are attending).

This will give you a chance to explore your new surroundings and make sure you get all the support needed by staff members.

STEP 2 – WHERE IS EVERYONE?

Top tips

This is your time, if you are unsure about anything just ask a staff member.

Get familiar with your new surroundings, look at walls for any posters advertising future events.



STEP 2 – MEETING NEW CLASSMATES

While waiting in the reception area there is no harm starting to make conversations with other students.

Most students may feel anxious and we know meeting new people can be a nerve-racking experience,

however, you are going to be spending a lot of time at your new college, so it might be a good idea

to interact with your fellow students. This will help you settle in to college life.

STEP 2 – MEETING NEW CLASSMATES

Top tips

Try to relax, everyone is in the same boat.

Smile and be approachable.



STEP 3 – FOLLOW ME

A well-known phrase you will hear during your first day, will no doubt be, “follow me”. Once you have been waiting in the reception your course leader or personal tutor will call your course name out and they will take you to a classroom or an area to fully introduce themselves and the course.

This will be another opportunity to meet your new classmates and ask any questions about your course.

STEP 3 – FOLLOW ME

The tutor or course leader will then show you around your new departments where you will be studying. For example, if you are on an engineer course, they will show you the workshops. You will also be given your time table and weekly schedule.

Top tips

This is Another good point to ask questions and get to know your classmates.

It might be loud in the reception area, so try to listen to any staff members talking.

Know the name of the course you are studying at the college.

STEP 4 – EXPLORE YOUR NEW ENVIRONMENT

Colleges will ask you to do all kinds of fun activities on your first day, this may include a treasure hunt where students will go around the college finding different clues.

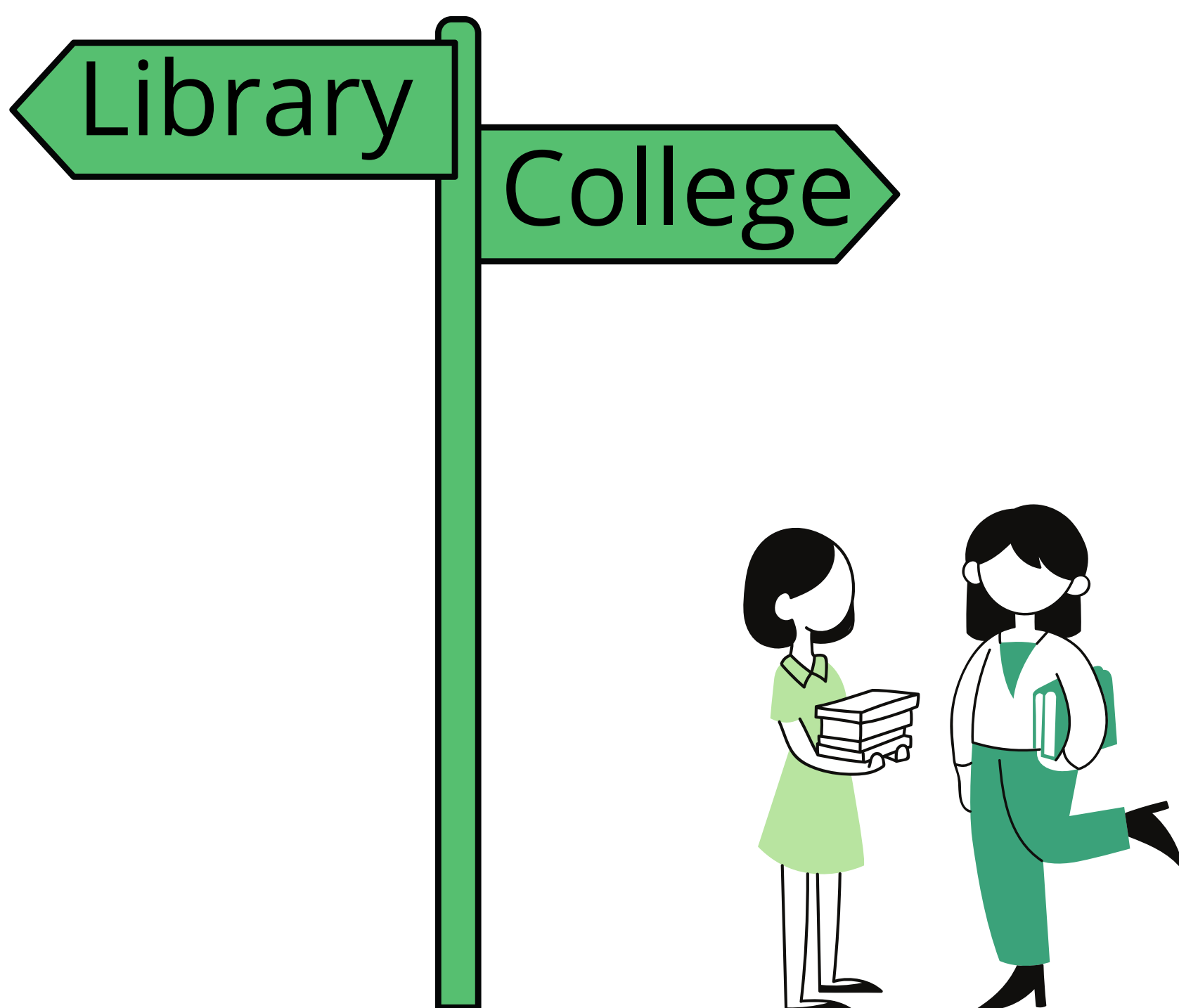
This will normally be done in teams, so it gets you talking to your classmates if you have not already. This is normally the point that you will receive your college pass, this will let you enter different buildings across the college.

STEP 4 – EXPLORE YOUR NEW ENVIRONMENT

Top tips

Join in with activities.

Really use this day to locate useful places, for example, the café, student finance area, careers team.



STEP 5 - COLLEGE ONLINE

After you have seen your new study environment, staff members will talk you through your online college account. This is where you will be handing in your coursework and receiving any additional information. This will normally take place in the college Library also known as the learning centre or hub. You will get your own unique login details and there will be staff members talking you through the whole register process.

STEP 5 - COLLEGE ONLINE

Top tips

Write your new college online details down and keep it safe.

These are your own login details so don't show anyone else.

It will be important to get use to this system, so we recommend getting familiar with the online portal.

STEP 6 – FIRST DAY DO'S

Get your transport sorted, ask about bus passes.

Ask about bursaries or any extra financial queries you might have.

Make sure you get your college ID sorted, this will let you come and go at college.

Make sure, if you are driving, that you ask about parking procedures.

STEP 6 – FIRST DAY DO'S

Get organised, start putting key dates in your calendar.

Don't forget to ask for help!!

Finally, everyone is in the same boat and it's a fresh start for all.

YES!

FRESHERS' FAIR

It is also worth mentioning, just like University, colleges will normally hold a Freshers Fair for new students.

This will take place over the week and there will be specialised events that will get students prepared for college life.

