

## Culture and Religion

In your own country there will be a number of customs habits and social rules that you experience everyday but that you don't think about because you have become accustomed to them.

Customs vary from culture to culture and this is one of the things that you will find most interesting about studying in the UK. It is wise to prepare yourself for cultural differences by researching as much as you can about the UK before you leave. Try to think about what you'll need to tell others about your own cultural needs too.

If you follow a religion and worship regularly at home, then you can continue to do so in the UK. A positive thing about the UK is that every major world religion is represented and most cities have Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist centres, as well as synagogues and churches of all denominations. Keeping routine with your faith will provide you with a link to your life at home but can also enable you to develop new friendships quickly.

On average, more than 90 different countries may be represented on a single campus and traditional British culture will not be the only culture that you are able to explore. Throughout the year, various events from all of the main world religions are celebrated in towns and cities throughout the UK, and many different South Asian languages are spoken, including those of Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Hindi and Gujarati. Common too, are the Chinese dialects of Cantonese and Mandarin. In most towns and cities, shops will sell food from around the world, from halal meats, to Asian vegetables and rice to kosher desserts.

**The UK reflects its multi-faith culture.**

