

A BAME STUDENT GUIDE TO YORK

Your guide to exploring
York as a member of the BAME
(Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) community!



This guide is designed
to help you navigate the city
and find the best places to connect
with your culture and community.
Discover all that York has to offer...

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TIPS FROM
CURRENT
STUDENTS ON
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WELCOME TO YSJ!

Hi there, and welcome to York St John University! At YSJ, you will have the opportunity to not only learn academically, but also learn about yourself, your passions, and your personal growth. However, with all these new responsibilities, university life can be challenging at times. We are here to help you balance your studies with everyday tasks such as laundry and grocery shopping, as well as how to spend your down time socialising and exploring your new city.

As a student at YSJ, we want you to feel supported and included during your time here. That's why we've put together this guidebook with valuable information for students of minority ethnicities. From where to find the best international food in the city, to a range of activities you may enjoy. We've also included contacts for support with mental wellbeing and finance, other key contacts and tips from students to help you make the most of your university experience.

As a minority student, you may often feel like the only one like you in your seminars, flat, or even among your friends, as British universities are often predominantly white institutions (PWIs). However, at YSJ, we want you to know that you are not alone. You are an important part of our diverse and inclusive community and we are committed to celebrating and supporting all of our amazing students on campus.

We hope you feel at home and enjoy your time with us at YSJ!



KEY CONTACTS!

You can book a meeting with the Presidents on the Students' Union's website!



Abinash Chaudhary

As your Students' Union President, my heart is set on building a true sense of family among our 12,000 students. I want each of you to know that I'll ensure we have every chance to connect, share our values, and support each other, so that no one feels alone in this journey. We're in this together, and together, we'll create a community that feels like home.

President of the Students' Union 2024/25
Email: a.chaudhary@yorks.ac.uk



Kamil Lawal

To all our students, and especially our BAME community, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome as you begin this new chapter. York St John is a place where diversity is celebrated and every voice is valued. Here, you are more than just a student, you are part of a supportive, vibrant family that is eager to see you thrive.

As your President of Education for another year, I am committed to ensuring that your experience here is not only about academic success but also about personal growth and belonging. We are here to support you every step of the way, and your journey matters to us all. Welcome to your new home, you belong here!

President of Education 2024/25
Email: k.lawal@yorks.ac.uk



Mario Owiriwa

As your President of Wellbeing and Diversity for the second year running, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you, whether you're a home student, from across the country or from other parts of the world. I understand the challenges that can come with adjusting to a new environment, be it homesickness, cultural differences, or simply the pressures of university life.

My goal is to ensure that every student feels supported, valued, and included. I am here to listen, to help, and to advocate for your needs. Let's work together to make your time a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Wishing you all the best for the year ahead!

President of Wellbeing and Diversity 2024/25
Email: m.owiriwa@yorks.ac.uk

KEY CONTACTS!



Ann-Marie Mafura

Hi I'm Ann-Marie, a 3rd year Psychology student and BAME Officer for the Students' Union for the second year running! I'm here to make the YSJ experience the best it can be for all students, with a focus on advocating for the needs and wants of the BAME community. I'm passionate about creating a truly inclusive environment and I love being involved in the ACS society and planning new events with the Students' Union as well as Uni of York to achieve that. There are some exciting things lined up for the year which I can't wait to be part of, and for you to enjoy!

But of course, my role is about more than just events. If you ever need someone to talk to about struggles, want some advice, or simply have ideas for what you'd like to see happen in the SU, then please don't hesitate to reach out! You can DM me on Instagram @annmarie.ysj or send me an email. I can't wait to meet you all!

BAME Officer 2024/25

Email: ann.mafura@yorks.ac.uk or Instagram: @annmarie.ysj



Emmanuel Ewere

Welcome to York St John University and congratulations on starting this exciting new chapter of your academic journey! My name is Emmanuel Ewere, and I am the International Student Officer. I'm here to support you throughout your time at YSJ. Whether it's helping you settle into university life, assisting with any challenges you may face, or connecting you with campus resources and cultural events, I am always here to enhance your experience and ensure that you feel at home.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need any assistance. I'm excited to meet you and help make your stay at YSJ as enjoyable and fulfilling as possible.

International Students Officer 2024/25

Email: emmanuel.ewere@yorks.ac.uk

KEY CONTACTS!



Jake Furby

Hi everyone, I am Jake and I graduated YSJ in 2012. I use they/he pronouns and I am the University's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advisor! My whole thing is making YSJ a super-inclusive place for everyone. I work with students and staff to challenge discrimination, harassment and bias.

Emma and I are excited to be developing several activities for students on EDI. Keep an eye out for some awesome opportunities coming your way soon! A little bit about me: I'm also juggling a PhD, serving on the board of the York LGBT Forum and involved in managing the City of York's anti-racism strategy with Inclusive Equal Rights UK. When I'm not busy with all that, I channel my inner artist with poetry and painting and hang out with friends and family. The bottom line: I'm passionate about making YSJ a fair and just place for everyone. Got questions or concerns about EDI? Email me at equalities@yorks.ac.uk

Equality and Diversity Advisor
Email: j.furby@yorks.ac.uk



Emma Coward-Gibbs

Hi! I'm Emma and I am one of the Specialist Support Advisers here at YSJ. I use she/her pronouns. I work to support students from under-represented and minoritised groups. This includes:

- BAME students
- Mature students
 - Care leavers
- Estranged students
- Student carers
- Student parents
- LGBTQ+ students
- Commuting students

Myself and Anna Deacon, our other Specialist Support Adviser, are here to help you with any issue that might be making it hard for you to get on with your studies, or University life more generally. You are welcome to talk to us about any issue, big or small - if we can't help directly we'll connect you with a team who can.
If you'd like to have a chat, you can contact me with my email!

Specialist Support Adviser Information and Support for BAME Students
Email: e.coward-gibbs@yorks.ac.uk

WHERE CAN I GO FOR MY FOOD SHOP?

EAST AND SOUTHEAST-ASIAN

- Red Chilli Supermarket: Chinese supermarket, specialises in Beijing & Sichuan cuisine
- Regency Chinese Supermarket
- Sunshine Oriental Supermarket

SOUTH-ASIAN

- Makkah International Food: halal butcher, range of foods, spices and household items
- Items from all over Asia, West Africa and Turkey, particularly specialising with South Asian foods
- ZamZam: Halal supermarket with bakery, butchers, fresh fruit and veg. Sells a range of Indian, Middle Eastern and North and West African ingredients
- Rafi's Spicebox: South Asian hand-made curry mixes, spice sets, and other world foods from Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisines
- Ammas Oven Mini Market: Pakistani, Nigerian, Indian cuisines

AFRO-CARIBBEAN

- JoJo's Afro-Caribbean: fresh fruit, veg, spices and Africa/Caribbean foods, as well as hair products
- OllyFaith Ventures: African goods shop
- ZamZam: Halal supermarket with bakery, butchers, fresh fruit and veg. Sells a range of Indian, Middle Eastern and North and West African ingredients

EUROPEAN

- Slavic Foods: European Mini Market
- Polski Sklep IZA: specialises in Polish cuisine
- Baltic Shop: Eastern European foods
- International Finest Foods
- Diamond Mini Market

SCAN HERE
FOR A MAP



WHERE CAN I EAT OUT IN YORK?

*(H) - Restaurant serves Halal food
(double check when ordering!)*

SOUTH/SOUTHEAST ASIAN

- The Yak and Yeti: Nepalese restaurant
- Everest: Nepalese restaurant
- Masala Craft: Indian restaurant
- Mumbai Lounge (H): Indian restaurant
- Mirchiz (H): Indian restaurant
- Bombay Spice (H): Indian restaurant
- Bengal Brasserie (H): Indian restaurant
- Lal Quila (H): Indian restaurant
- Jaipur Spice (H): Indian restaurant
- The Raj (H): Indian restaurant
- The Viceroy (H): Indian restaurant
- York Tandoori (H): Indian restaurant
- Indian Lounge (H): Indian restaurant
- Kalpakavadi: South Indian restaurant
- Coconut Lagoon: South Indian restaurant
- Tah Tien: Thai restaurant
- Mommy Thai: Thai restaurant
- Côtô Kitchen: Vietnamese restaurant
- Khaosan Road: Thai Tapas
- Zaap Thai
- Rosa's Thai
- Pho: Vietnamese restaurant

LATIN AMERICAN/ CARIBBEAN

- Tricolor: Colombian Restaurant
- Las Iguanas: Latin American
- Rio Brazilian Steakhouse
- Casa Brazilian Rodizio
- El Gaucho: Argentine style cuisine
- Mexicano
- Vovo Catina SPARK food court: Brazilian
- Batanga Mexican

MIDDLE EASTERN/ AFRICAN

- Los Moros: North African restaurant
- Karoo Bar: South African restaurant
- Middle Feast (H): Falafel bar
- Yemen Heaven (H): Yemeni restaurant and coffee house
- Bab Tooma (H): Middle Eastern
- Yahala Mataam: Lebanese/ Arabic food

SCAN HERE FOR A
MAP OF HALAL
RESTAURANTS



SCAN HERE FOR
A MAP OF ALL
RESTAURANTS



WHERE CAN I EAT OUT IN YORK?

EAST ASIAN

- Shi Shang Chinese
- Happy Valley Chinese
- Sky Blue Chinese
- Upper River Chinese
- Noodle Lane
- YUZU Streetfood: East Asian fusion
- Little Asia: Korean Restaurant
- Panda Mami: Asian buffet
- Regency Chinese
- The Orchid: Asian Vegan food
- Hai Zhong Lao Hotpot & BBQ
- Ippuku Tea House: Japanese restaurant and tea house
- Ipfu: Japanese restaurant
- Shiitakeya: Japanese restaurant
- Oshibi: Korean Bistro and BBQ
- Sora Sky Bar: Japanese restaurant
- Sushi and Bowl: Japanese restaurant
- Oishii Izakaya: Japanese restaurant

OTHER RESTAURANTS SERVING HALAL FOOD

- Yakamoz (H): Turkish cuisine
- Kapadokya (H): Turkish cuisine
- German Doner Kebab (H): German-style kebabs
- Millers (H): Fish and chips and tacos

HALAL TAKEAWAYS

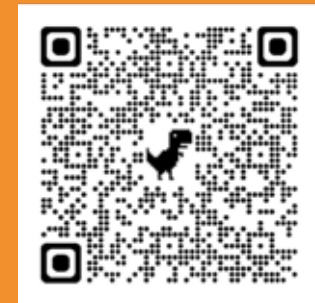
- Original Shawarma (H)
- Shahi Tandoori (H)
- Three Chefs (H)
- SFC (H)
- Backstreet Burgers (H)
- Alishaan (H)
- Ali G's (H)

(Some of the restaurants above also deliver!)

SCAN HERE FOR
A MAP OF HALAL
RESTAURANTS



SCAN HERE FOR
A MAP OF ALL
RESTAURANTS



SOCIETIES, NETWORKS & CLUBS

Find more info and
become a member by
going to the Students'
Union's website!

Afro-Caribbean Society

Instagram: @ysj.acs

We're creating a safe space for any person who is of African or Caribbean descent, within the University to network and connect. The friends you meet here are connections you can hold throughout your time at YSJ. We put on fun events, casual meet ups and work together on some joint events with University of York ACS.



Japanese Society

Instagram & Facebook: @ysjjapenesesociety

The YSJ Japanese Society offers a place for students with an interest in all things Japan to meet, socialise and partake in a variety of fun activities inspired by traditional and popular Japanese culture.



Nigerian Students Society

Instagram: @thenigerianstudentsocietyysju

Through engaging events, initiatives and support networks, we aim to empower students to develop their passions, build lasting connections and contribute to the welfare of the university and the local community.



Korean Culture Society

Instagram: @ysjkoreansociety

Korean Culture is an all-inclusive society offering York St John University students the opportunity to learn about an entirely new culture or widen their knowledge of this unique and intriguing country. The society is also a space where Korean and non-Korean nationals can meet, exchange and make friends.



SOCIETIES, NETWORKS & CLUBS

Islamic Society

Email: islamicsociety@yorks.ac.uk

The Islamic Society here at York St John University is for a community of students who wish to express their Islamic identity or just learn more about the religion. Our aim is to help you grow in faith by holding lots of exciting and inspiring events that are open to all.

YSJ Christian Union

Instagram & Facebook: @ysjcu

If you're a Christian, curious about God or even just wanting to meet some friendly people on campus, we would love you to come along to our regular CU Centrals and events. We long to be a welcoming society, where people feel loved and valued whilst at YSJ!

The Chaplaincy Team

Email: chaplaincy@yorks.ac.uk or Instagram & Twitter: @ysjchaplaincy

The York St John chaplaincy provides spaces and opportunities for reflection, listening, confidential support, prayer, worship, meditation, socialising and spiritual exploration.

Black Access Uni of York

Instagram: @blackaccessyork

Black Access supports the progression of Black students from their first year of further education into university through tailored events and activities created by current Black students, designed to give an honest, authentic experience of uni life!

The Black Women's Project York (BWP)

Instagram: @bwpyork_

The Black Women's Project is an organisation that develops Black female leaders at university with a focus on wellbeing and up-skilling throughout their time at university and as they launch into the start of their careers. We deliver this support by hosting our annual conference, our leadership academy and socials.



NEED A HAIRDRESSER?

To find the right stylist for you, make sure to check Instagram to find more stylists and ask around - word of mouth as a student is often the most reliable way to find what you are looking for!

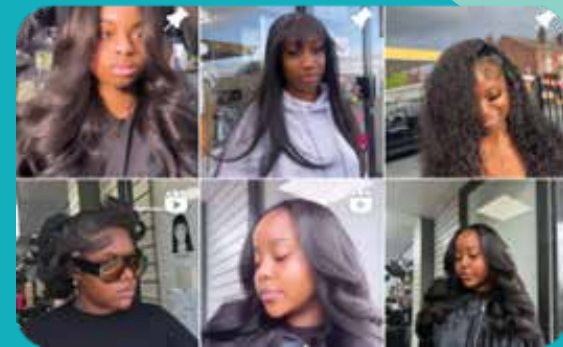
If you are ever in need of a hairdresser, take a look at these student certified stylists in the York/Leeds area!



@**hairbychi** is a student in York who specialises in all braids and twists



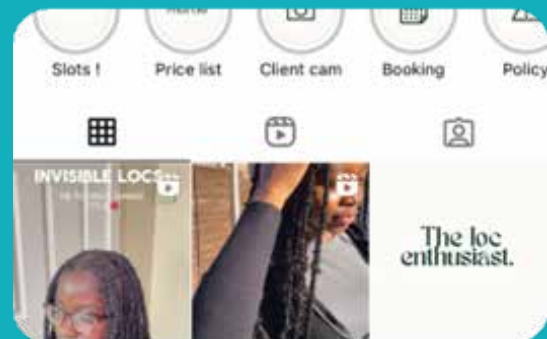
@**yourfilipinobarber** is a barbershop in York and are specialist in all trims!



@**k.dhair** is a stylist in Leeds who specialises in extensions, wigs, and natural hair care



@**darkfaderz_leeds** has an affordable barbershop in Leeds and is a trusted go to by students!



@**thelocenthusiast** is a stylist in York that specialises in Faux locs and twists!



@**flawlessfab_** is a salon in Leeds, not only selling hair products but is a student go to for installs, ponytail, weaves and more!

SUPPORT AT YSJ

THE GLOBAL CAMPUS TEAM

YSJ's hub for all things international. They host exciting events, run trips to fantastic places in the North of England, and provide international students with support whilst at York St John

Email: globalcampus@yorks.ac.uk

Instagram: [ysju_global](https://www.instagram.com/ysju_global)

INFORMATION SERVICES

You can visit the information services help desks in Holgate and Fountains Library or get in contact with the team via email or phone for any query. The help desks are open

Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm

Email: support@yorks.ac.uk

Phone: 01904876477

FINANCE & FUNDING ADVICE

For help with any payment issues, their office is located on the first floor of Ripon Wing. It is open Monday to Friday from

10am to 4pm

Email: fundingadvice@yorks.ac.uk

Phone: 01904876477

WELLBEING SUPPORT

They offer emotional support and guidance to help you look after your mental health during your study. Drop-in and bookable sessions are available throughout the week.

Email: wellbeing@yorks.ac.uk



SUPPORT AT YSJ

You can find much more information
by visiting the YSJ website at
www.yorksj.ac.uk
or you can look on the
YSJ app!

YORK ST JOHN STUDENTS' UNION (YSJSU)

The Students' Union (SU) is a central hub on campus, run exclusively by students for students. It boasts a bar and cafe that regularly host events and serves as an inclusive social space for students.

Email: su@yorksj.ac.uk

Instagram: @ysjsu

Website: ysjsu.com

CAREERS TEAM

YSJ's careers service offers tailored career support, helping with CV's, finding work experience, study abroad opportunities and more. You can find them in Holgate.

Email: careers@yorksj.ac.uk

Phone: 019048764124

ACADEMIC LIAISON LIBRARIANS

They provide help with reference management, finding and evaluating resources and accessibility support to library resources. You can book a tutorial with an academic liaison librarian at the Library info desk or contact through emailing support.



SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH

YSJ CHAPLAINCY

The York St John Chaplaincy is the pastoral and spiritual support on campus. They offer hospitality, support and friendship for all members of the YSJ community. No matter your faith position, situation, disability, nationality, gender or sexual orientation, the Chaplaincy provides spaces and opportunities for reflection, listening, confidential support, prayer, worship, meditation, socialising and spiritual exploration.

WHO'S WHO

Alongside our University Chaplain (Rev'd Jane Speck), the Chaplaincy team includes two Assistant Chaplains, Rev'd Darius Traves (York) and Rev'd Calebmark Onyemaobi (London), and a team of volunteer Faith Advisors who represent all the major faith traditions.



Rev'd Jane Speck
University
Chaplain



Rev'd Darius
Traves Assistant
Chaplain (York)



Rev'd Calebmark
Onyemaobi
Assistant Chaplain
(London)



Mark Jones
Buddhist Faith Advisor



Rabbi Elisheva
Salamo
Jewish Faith Advisor



Rasha Ibrahim
Muslim Faith
Advisor



Fr Bill Serplus
Roman Catholic Faith
Advisor



Suki Matharu Sikh
Faith Advisor



Mahendra Verma
Hindu Faith
Advisor

The Chaplaincy provide a variety of spiritual and social events for various faith groups and spiritual traditions, which you can find on the university website!

SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH

WELCOME MESSAGES:

REV'D JANE SPECK UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

Welcome to York St John! The Chaplaincy Team are here to help smooth your path into university life, whether that's over tea and cake, through learning to knit or doing Bible Study, or enjoying the naturally unplugged space of the Chapel. Chaplaincy team members represent all the major world faiths, and are here for all of you whether you have a faith or not. We're looking forward to meeting you!

REV'D CALEBMARK ONYEMAOBI ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN (LONDON)

Home is your sanctuary, where you feel safe, loved and accepted. Here at York St John, we hope to bridge the gap and model a home far away from home. Our joy is to see you thrive. Welcome to York St John University. Rev Calebmark Onyemaobi is an Anglican Priest and the Assistant Chaplain to the London Campus

MARK JONES : BUDDHIST FAITH ADVISOR

Hi, my name is Mark Jones and I am the Buddhist faith advisor. I have been a practising Buddhist for thirty years and have taught Buddhism and meditation for the past fifteen. I look forward to meeting both students who are Buddhists and those who might be interested in Buddhism and meditation.

The Chaplaincy team are always available for a chat and to provide support. You can find the Chaplaincy team in the Chapel or in C.P.007, next to the Japanese Peace Garden. You can also get in touch by emailing them at chaplaincy@yorksja.ac.uk.

TIPS FROM 1 STUDENT TO ANOTHER ...

Relax and go with the flow, don't worry too much about it and enjoy it!

If you need it seek out support ysj has a lot of it and, for hair, ask who you know who can do hair - lots of students can!

Do day trips to Leeds with friends for Hair Products, foods and other things you may struggle to find in York

Be open to new experiences and put yourself out there, don't be afraid to go solo to events because 100% someone has gone solo too or you'll meet new people!

Find your people who will be there for you, uni can get hard, join a society or try different events. You will meet people!

Everyone will be nervous but no need for the nerves, you will meet the most beautiful people!



THANK YOU

Students' Union
www.ysjsu.com
su@yorks.ac.uk
@ysjsu

University
www.yorks.ac.uk
@yorkstjohn



ENJOY YOUR TIME AT YSJ