

THE AUTISTIC GUIDE TO STARTING COLLEGE

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Travelling and
using public
transport

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If you are commuting to college, you will probably need to use public transport to get to the college. Even if you do choose to rent accommodation near college, public transport can be useful for travelling into the city, as most colleges are located on the outskirts of the area. The thought of getting transport can be daunting, especially if you are not used to getting it, or are not familiar with the town or city you are, but there are some tips that can help make your experience less intimidating.

Preparing yourself for travelling is the easiest way for you to not get overwhelmed while using public transport. There are a few ways to prepare yourself for the journey.

1. FIND OUT THE EASIEST AND QUICKEST ROUTE TO GET TO YOUR COLLEGE FROM YOUR HOUSE.

- If you live outside the town or city, you will most likely need to get a bus or train into the city, and then another bus to actually get to the college.
- Getthere.ie is a good website to find private bus companies near you that are going to towns or cities.
- Alternatively, you can use buseireann.ie or irishrail.ie to find buses or trains heading where you want to go.
- Remember that buses that travel in the morning are usually for commuters and will probably drop you close enough to your college, or to a bus that will take you to your college.
- Find out the bus routes that go past your college. Usually, trains and buses will drop you in the city centre and there will be buses heading out towards your college. You can use the maps on your phone or your laptop to see which public transport goes from your location to your college

2. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED TO GET THE BUS, LUAS, TRAIN ETC.

- A **leap card** is an important thing to have if you want to get the bus, especially Dublin Bus. A student leap card can make your journey cheaper, and it can be used on trains, the LUAS, Dublin bus, and Bus Eireann.
- **Noise cancelling headphones** can be used to block out any noises while you're getting the bus. There can be many people on a bus, talking on their phones, having conversations on their phones, watching videos on their phones, and this may get overwhelming. If you think this may happen it's a good idea to invest in headphones.

3. ACTUALLY GETTING THE BUS

- When getting the bus, there are a few things to check. First of all, make sure you're at the right stop. Some buses may stop in different places, so it's important to make sure you're waiting at the right stop to make sure you don't get the wrong bus or miss the one you're meant to get.
- When the bus is coming, make sure it is the correct bus. Many buses use the same bus stop, and it is very easy to get the wrong bus and end up going somewhere else. If you are unsure, you can ask the bus driver, or another person getting the bus. Dublin buses and Bus Eireann have the number of the bus displayed on the front of the bus, but private companies may not, so keep an eye out for this.

4. GETTING OFF THE BUS

Now that you're on the bus you need to know where to get off. Most forms of transport will have some form of technology telling you what the next stop is. If you are unsure where you are getting off, the maps on your phone can tell you the name of the stop that you want to get off at. You can also follow your location on your maps as you travel on the bus, and can get off at the stop closest to where you want to go.

Tips for using Dublin Bus

Dublin Bus operates a bit different to how buses usually operate. Here are a few tips for using Dublin Bus.

PAYING FOR THE BUS

- Dublin bus only takes exact change in coins, or a leap card, so it is very useful to invest in a student leap card. These can be bought from the SU in your college, and a few other locations. Check the link below to find where your relevant SU is located in your college.

<https://www.studentleapcard.ie/agents>.

KNOWING WHICH SIDE OF THE ROAD TO GET THE BUS ON

- Dublin bus has always had two different buses with the same number on them. The reason for this is one of the buses is travelling towards a certain destination, and the other is travelling away from the destination. This may seem confusing at first if you are unsure which side of the road points towards where you are going, but the front of the buses also show where their end destination is along with their number. Most buses travel north to south, or vice versa, so a simple trick is to look up where the end destination is and see if it is north of where you want to go, or south of where you want to go.

HOW TO MAKE THE BUS STOP AT YOUR BUS STOP.

- In order to actually get on the bus, someone needs to flag the bus down. This is done by putting your hand out so the bus driver knows you want to get the bus they are driving. Sometimes someone else will put out their hand. If this happens then you do not need to put your hand out too. A bus may also stop even if no one puts their hand out if someone has indicated that they want to get off the bus.

INDICATING YOU WANT TO GET OFF THE BUS

- In order to avoid unnecessary stops, a bus driver will only stop the bus at a stop if someone at the bus stop indicates they want to get on, or if someone indicates they want to get off. You can do this by pressing the various stop buttons located around the bus. When pressed, these buttons make a beeping noise, and the driver will stop at the next bus stop on the route. All you have to do is get off the bus and you have completed your journey!