1: Welcome to London

F) First days in London
Welcome to London!

The first days you might feel a little disoriented: jet lag, a new language, distance from home...

We promise you that this is normal and temporary and that London may seem weird now, but you will end up calling it “home” one day.
Let us guide you through the first days in London.

Of course, not all these steps are necessary, but you will find them very useful in the long run.
1) Come to Western

- Come and visit us at Western. Drop by the department. Some of us might be away on holidays but many will be there.
- Become familiar with the university and the services it has to offer. Find the places where you will be getting coffee and lunch.
- Before the beginning of the term, you will be able to pick up your bus pass.
2) Get Your Western ONECard

• Go to the Western Student Services Building.
• You will need your Western ID and one piece of valid government-issued photo identification (passport, driver’s license…).
• You can upload your photo through Student Services before coming in to avoid having it taken on the spot.
3) Get a Cell Phone

• Having a cell phone will be very helpful in many situations.

• There are many companies available. You need to compare their plans and see which one is most suitable for your needs and budget.
  – The easiest way of doing this would be to visit one of the local malls and gathering info directly.
4) Open a Bank Account

- You will certainly require a bank account for many reasons.
- Being a student, you are not required to pay any fees for a debit card.
- Make sure you bring two pieces of ID to open an account.
- Compare banks and decide which one is the most convenient (proximity to a branch or hours of operations for example).
5) Find Your Future Supermarket

- London has different supermarkets.
- Each supermarket has different strengths and weaknesses.
  - Products they offer, their prices, their proximity…

![Supermarket Logos]
• Having a London Public Library Card will let you borrow movies, magazines and books cost-free and will allow you to use its internet service.

• To get the card, you will need 2 pieces of ID, one with your current address (a letter with your name that is addressed to your current address is enough).
7) Apply for Your SIN

- Once you have signed your contract as a TA, you will be able to apply for your Social Insurance Number (SIN).
- You will need a proof of ID (passport) and your copy of the contract.
- You will have to go to London Service Canada Centre: Dominion Public Building
  457 Richmond Street
  London, Ontario
- Note that you will not receive a card but a piece of paper.
8) Pay for the Insurance for your Dependents

- Your medical insurance is included in the tuition fees.
- However, you will need to pay for the insurance for your dependent ones (children and/or spouse).
- For that, you will need to go to Human Resources at room 5100, Support Services Building at Western.
• Now you have an idea how to spend your first days in London.
• But are you sure you know enough in order to handle the cultural differences while in Canada?
• No worries! Our next presentation will help you out with that.
Pictures in these slides

- Western ID: http://grad.uwo.ca/img/content/prospective/western_one_card.jpg
- Remark logo: http://remarkfreshmarkets.com/
- FreshCo logo: http://www.freshco.com
- London Library card: https://c2.staticflickr.com/6/5180/5416221946_90392b85ee_z.jpg
- Support Services building: http://www.nicholsonsheffield.ca/images/Nicholson_Sheffield_for_Web/For_Web/Projects/Support_Services/uwo_ss_2136p%20copy.jpg