



1) WELCOME TO LONDON

G) CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

REALLY?

- Being from a different country and even a different culture, there are many things that you take for granted as “normal” that happen to be “not-so-normal” in Canada.
- Join us for some random advice that might or might not be useful depending on your customs.



GREETINGS

- In many countries, one may greet other people by kissing the other person's cheek on one or both sides.
- However, this is not common in Canada, especially when you meet somebody for the first time
- Instead, it is very typical to shake each other's hands



PHYSICAL CONTACT

- Those who come from Latin or Mediterranean countries might be very used to touching people while speaking.
- Physical contact in Canada is not that common and is typically between people who know each other well



BE POLITE, PLEASE. THANK YOU.

- We are all polite in our unique way, of course.
- However, in Canada you are expected to use the words “please”, “thank you” and “sorry” in 90% of your conversations.
- Just kidding, not 90%, but quite a lot!



TAXES

- That price you see in the store will very likely be before tax, which means that you will pay more. In Ontario, the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is 13% — applied to most goods and services. Groceries, prescription drugs, and most children's items are exempt.



SHOPPING

- If you always go to the same supermarket for groceries or to the same café for your daily dose of caffeine, consider signing up for their rewards programs.
- Most of them are free and allow you to collect points to redeem as discounts. Popular ones include PC Optimum (Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, No Frills), Scene+ (Sobeys, FreshCo, Metro), and AIR MILES.
- It all adds up, right?



BUDGET

- You have probably heard it but here it goes once again... Canada is expensive!
- As a student you will need to budget your expenses wisely.
- Accommodation and food are necessary expenses so think about cutting down on unnecessary things like alcohol, cigarettes, parties or restaurants. The free SOGS Food Bank (sogs.ca) is open to all grad students.



TIPPING

- Yes! You are expected to leave a tip after a dinner, a haircut or valet service.
- Typically, 15–18% on the pre-tax bill is the minimum expected, and 20% has become the norm for good service. Payment terminals will usually suggest tip amounts — you can adjust or enter a custom amount. Food delivery apps (Uber Eats, DoorDash) also prompt for tips.



YAY!

- Well, you are basically an expert now, so it is time to see what London can offer you in terms of enjoyment.
- Follow us into our next presentation to find that out!

