

Welcome to Chelmsford, the UK's newest city and the county town of Essex. As a student here it won't take you long to get used to the friendly and vibrant atmosphere the city exudes. Small enough never to overwhelm, but big enough to explore, you'll be surprised to discover what Chelmsford has to offer.



Chelmsford is situated just 35 minutes from London by train, making it an excellent base to explore the capital from. But with so much to see and do within the city itself the opportunities are endless. You'll be spoiled for choice by the city's vast array of shops, eateries, leisure facilities, not to mention entertainment ranging from first-class cricket to international music festivals! On these pages we've chosen some of the city's highlights, so that you can enjoy a few of our favourite places while discovering some of your own...



Share your Chelmsford selfies with us

We know there's more to discover in the city so let us know what you've found – share your selfies at your favourite places with us via Twitter or Facebook and let us know what makes it your Chelmsford.

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Shopping

You'll find all the big **high street** names in Chelmsford's fully pedestrianized centre as well as an array of **local banks** including HSBC, Barclays and Lloyds TSB, making it easy to manage your money nearby.

There's plenty more on offer at the two main shopping centres which are adjacent to either end of the high street. At **High Chelmer Shopping Centre** you'll find some of the leading retailers in fashion, health and beauty, including Primark, Topshop and Boots. If this isn't enough to satisfy your needs then plenty more can be found at **The Meadows Shopping Centre**, including Wilkinson's and Superdrug.

Right in the centre, near the High Chelmer shopping centre, is the **800 year old retail market** which is open Tuesday-Saturday and well worth a look. It's a must for bargain hunters with over 50 stalls and kiosks selling anything and everything from cheap but fashionable clothes and bags, cards and gifts, books and magazines, fresh produce and much more.

For the more serious shopper **Baddow Road** is home to the city's designer boutiques, while in nearby **Moulsham Street** you'll find a selection of quirky independent shops and the odd hidden gem tucked away in the side streets, so make sure you take the time to discover these unique finds.



Eating & Drinking

When it comes to food and drink, there's something to suit all tastes and budgets in Chelmsford.

In addition to all of the eateries available on campus, you'll be spoilt for choice with names you find on most high streets including **Giraffe, Nandos, Prezzo, Pizza Express, Café Rouge, Zizzi** and many more. If you're looking for something a little different you won't be disappointed either, there's a wealth of independent restaurants that cater for every palette and many cuisines. The city is also well-equipped in the café department with everything from a great stop for a fry-up to the quintessential afternoon tea - try **aCanteen** or **Cake at the Lake** for great tea and cake.

The city and surrounding villages are also home to some of the best pubs in the region, most serving lunches and dinners. **The Lion Inn** in Boreham is always good for delicious food and a great atmosphere. And don't forget the **Gourmet Food Fair** that's on in the high street every Friday and Saturday.

Supermarkets

If you prefer to dine in you can keep your cupboards stocked up at the reasonably priced onsite **Spa** or visit the large **Tesco** store in the city centre for a bigger selection of groceries. To help you with your bags Anglia Ruskin Students' Union runs a return shuttle bus service to Tesco from The Student Village between 6-8pm every Tuesday and Thursday during term time.

Other supermarket chains, such as **Asda, Sainsbury's** and **Morrison's**, are also easily accessible by car or bus within the city limits.

Nightlife

If you prefer to let your hair down in the small hours then you won't be disappointed by Chelmsford's vibrant nightlife with lively bars such as **Missoula, CTZN** and **Yates's** - there's plenty to choose from. You'll also find a host of clubs and dance venues including **Evoke Nightclub** with its unique Ice Bar, **MIYA** boasting a luxurious new décor, and **Chicago Rock Café** for those classic party anthems.

The city is also home to several live music and entertainment venues, ranging from gigs and open mic nights hosted in the traditional surroundings of **The Golden Fleece** pub to **The Bassment**, which brings a slice of London's underground bar culture to the city.

For those of you who prefer traditional English pubs, there's no better place to refresh yourself on a hot summer's day than in the extensive beer garden at the **The Riverside Inn**, while **The Ale House** on Viaduct Road satisfies even the most eclectic of tastes with its vast array of countrywide cask ales, real cider, imported German lager and worldwide bottled beers.

Sport & Leisure

Whether you just want to have fun and keep fit, or if you're more serious about competing, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in sport in Chelmsford. It goes without saying it's a cricket-loving city where **Essex County Cricket Club** plays its home games.

You can also take full advantage of **Chelmsford's Sport and Athletics Centre** with its first-class indoor and outdoor facilities suitable for all ages and abilities.

Not to mention our own **on-campus sports** run by our Sport & Active Anglia team. There's loads of social sport going on every day including studio fitness classes. We have a gym and sports hall on campus as well which you can join at hugely discounted rates.

Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre is the city's sporting hub with facilities that include swimming pools, a gym and an ice rink (where the Chelmsford Chieftains ice hockey team play). We've got a good partnership with the centre which offers our students reduced rates on memberships.

The city also has a diverse range of community sports on offer, including a free timed 5km **Parkrun** which takes place every Saturday at 9am in the beautiful surroundings of Central Park, and recreational led cycle rides departing from Riverside Ice and Leisure on Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the year.

Alternatively, if being on the water is more your thing, Chelmsford has one of the oldest **canoe clubs** in the country. Established in 1946 it has around 400 members and the team runs introductory courses in the spring and summer so that newcomers can give it a try.

Festival & Events

In addition to the hugely popular **V Festival**, which brings world-famous recording artists such as The Killers, Justin Timberlake, Beyoncé and Kings of Leon to Chelmsford's Hylands Park each August, the city also hosts a number of smaller events.

The Fling, held in June, is a unique festival of assorted amusements for adults only. From breathtaking burlesque to stunning fire shows, comedy and live music, the extraordinary medley of offerings has to be experienced first-hand.

CITYdiversions, held in September, is a popular street festival of arts which gives audiences the opportunity to enjoy some of the best outdoor performances from across the UK and around the world.

Chelmsford also holds two **Beer** and **Cider Festivals** each year, one in winter and one in summer, where visitors can sample a huge selection of beverages from the UK and abroad.



Art & Culture

For art and culture there really is something for everyone. You can explore the collections at **Chelmsford Museum** nestled in the heart of Oaklands Park or visit the **Civic** and **Cramphorn theatres**, both in the city centre and showing a varied programme of theatre, comedy, music, dance and film.

You can also catch the latest films at **Odeon**, Chelmsford's multi-screen cinema, which offers student discounts to NUS card holders.

Beyond the City Limits

As well as being so close to the capital, **Chelmsford's central Essex location** benefits from being a stone's throw away from beautiful countryside and the coast.

Animal-lovers will enjoy visiting nearby **Colchester Zoo, Tropical Wings Zoo** or **Marsh Farm County Park**. Nature enthusiasts should take a stroll through **RHS Garden Hyde Hall** to take in the stunning views and dazzling displays of horticulture.

If you are looking for sand and sea in a traditional British seaside setting then **Southend** and **Clacton** are under an hour's drive away.

Shoppers will enjoy visiting one of three large shopping centres in the Essex area, **Freeport Braintree Designer Village, Westfield London Stratford** and **Lakeside Shopping Centre**, all within a 30 minute car/train journey.



