

Staying Safe at the RAU

Your Guide to Crime Prevention

Summary

At the Royal Agricultural University, your safety is paramount. This guide offers essential tips to help you protect yourself, your belongings, and your personal information during your time at RAU.

Accommodation and Property Security

- **Lock Up:** Always lock doors and windows, even if you're stepping out briefly. Avoid leaving valuables in plain sight.
- **Secure Communal Areas:** Ensure communal doors are closed and locked behind you. Don't let strangers tailgate into your building.
- **Mark and Register Valuables:** Use a UV pen to mark items with your student ID and register them on [Immobalise](#) to aid recovery if lost or stolen.
- **Insurance:** Consider student contents insurance to cover laptops, bikes, and other valuables

Bike and Vehicle Safety

- **Use Quality Locks:** Invest in a Sold Secure-rated D-lock and always lock your bike to a fixed, immovable object.
- **Register Your Bike:** Register your bicycle on [BikeRegister](#) and keep a record of its serial number.
- **Vehicle Security:** Always lock your car and remove valuables from sight. Use steering locks or alarms for added security.
- **Register your Vehicle.** It is important that you register your vehicle details with the University. This will also give you access to the car park.

Personal Safety

- **Stay Alert:** Be aware of your surroundings, especially when walking alone at night. Stick to well-lit areas and avoid shortcuts through isolated places.
- **Personal Alarms:** Carry a personal safety alarm to attract attention in emergencies.
- **Plan Ahead:** Inform friends of your whereabouts and expected return times. Pre-book licensed taxis or know the locations of official taxi ranks.
- **Drink Responsibly:** Keep an eye on your drink to prevent spiking. Never accept drinks from strangers or leave your drink unattended.

Safety on Nights Out

- **Pre-Book Transportation:** Arrange a licensed taxi or identify a designated sober driver before heading out. This ensures you have a reliable way to get home safely.
- **Avoid Walking Alone:** If walking is your only option, stick to well-lit, populated routes and walk with friends whenever possible.
- **Buddy System:** Stay with your group throughout the night. If someone wants to leave, ensure they have a safe way home and check in with them later.
- **Use 'Ask for Angela':** If you feel unsafe, approach bar staff and ask for "Angela." This code indicates you need help, and staff are trained to assist.

Digital and Identity Protection

- **Strong Passwords:** Use complex passwords combining letters, numbers, and symbols. Consider using passphrases with three random words.
- **Two-Step Verification:** Enable 2-step verification on your email and banking accounts for added security.
- **Beware of Scams:** Be cautious of unsolicited emails or messages requesting personal information. Verify the source before clicking on links or providing details.
- **Secure Devices:** Install reputable antivirus software on your devices and keep them updated. Avoid using public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions.

Holiday and Term Break Precautions

- **Take Valuables Home:** If possible, take your valuables with you during extended breaks. Alternatively, store them securely out of sight.
- **Appear Occupied:** Ask a trusted neighbour to check on your property, collect mail, or open and close curtains to give the appearance of occupancy.
- **Secure Deliveries:** Redirect or pause deliveries to prevent parcels from accumulating outside your door.

Reporting Suspicious Activity

Trust Your Instincts

- If you notice someone or something that feels off—like someone hanging around locked doors, photographing buildings, or behaving aggressively—trust your gut and act. It's better to report and be safe, than ignore potential threats.

How to Report

- **On campus:**
 - Contact RAU Security or the Porters Lodge.
- **Off campus:**
 - **Emergency** (immediate danger): Call **999**.
 - **Non-emergency:** Call **101** or use your local police's online reporting system (e.g., via Police.UK)

- **Anonymous Reporting**

If you prefer not to identify yourself, you can report via **Crimestoppers** anonymously at **0800 555 111** or through their online form

Emergency Contacts

- **RAU Security:** 01285 889834
- **Police:** Dial 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-emergency situations.
- **Action Fraud:** Report fraud or cybercrime at actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.
- **StreetSafe:** Report public places where you feel unsafe anonymously at [StreetSafe](https://www.street-safe.co.uk)

Stay vigilant and look out for one another. Your safety is our priority.