

Don't Drive Yourself Crazy

Fuel up your bank account and help the environment by not bringing a car to Swansea

You may dislike the prospect of giving up your car for a few years. However, not owning a car at Swansea University is probably the best decision to make.

For so many reasons, not owning a car while at university is a smart move that will make your life easier and save you a lot of money.

Like many universities, Swansea University campuses don't have student parking, but, beyond that, here are 5 reasons why you shouldn't own a car while at Swansea University.

1. You'll be a guaranteed taxi service

When you first start driving you'll love being a taxi service for your friends and family, but this all changes when you go to university.

Your life is going to be hectic enough without having to worry about picking up your housemate from the shops or dropping friends off at the station every weekend.

It's also worth remembering that [your insurance may be invalid](#) if you're charging friends for lifts.

2. You'll always be the designated driver

Taxis can be expensive, especially in the early hours of the morning. So, who do you think will be the first person your friends turn to after a night out?

Whilst it is good for your [Welfare](#) to take the occasional night off, if you're constantly expected to give your mates a lift, you could miss out on some of the fun.

You might find that having your car close by could tempt you to drink and drive. Young drivers (17-24) who have accidents account for a [quarter of all drink driving fatalities](#) despite making up just 7% of full licence holders on the road.

[Just one short journey](#) could result in 3 months' imprisonment, up to £2500 fine or a possible driving ban if you're over the legal limit. If you're someone who could be tempted or pressured into driving after a night out then not having a car will stop you from getting into trouble.

3. Save yourself lots of money!

[Money](#) is a big factor in student life and the biggest reason not to take a car to university. In fact, the average annual¹ cost to UK drivers of keeping, running and insuring a car for a year is [£5206.84](#). For comparison, a [UniBus pass](#) for the academic year² costs you £330 – and includes the full first Cymru

¹ 2017

² 19/20

network from Bridgend to Carmarthen (and a FREE bus to Cardiff) – whilst the average UK car driver spends £3823.10 over the same period. If you're under 22, you can also apply for a FREE [My Travel Pass](#) card from the Welsh Government giving you an extra 3rd off your pass. That's an overall saving of 94%!

The [price of petrol](#) alone is more than most students have spare and, as you're most likely going to be making lots of short, infrequent journeys which aren't the most fuel efficient, it'll probably cost you – and the environment – more.

Alongside petrol and general maintenance, the biggest expense you'll have is your car insurance. You'll already know how expensive it is for young drivers to get car insurance, and it's often too much for students to afford when they move away for university.

Leaving your car at home means you don't have that massive expense coming out each month and you can put that extra saving towards whatever you want.

4. Where are you going to put it?

Swansea University has [no daytime parking](#) available for students without exceptional circumstances. Parking spaces across Swansea, particularly in areas around the campuses are severely limited already.

With this in mind, [Swansea Unibus](#), Data Cabs' [Student Taxi Services](#) and [Santander Cycles Swansea](#) make for great alternatives for a fraction of the cost of running a vehicle.

Another thing to consider is where you are planning to live. If you're a 1st year, you will likely be living on campus, so you'll have nowhere to put your car during the day. If you're a returning student, you will likely be moving in to accommodation within the community, where there is already limited parking and restrictions. It's also worth noting that Swansea Council only allow 2 Resident's Permits per property and that you can't get one unless you are the Policy Holder on your car insurance.³

5. You just won't need it

Swansea University is based over 2 campuses along the bay of the city. With lots of traffic and no parking on the campuses, using a car to get around isn't very practical. Not only will you find it a lot easier to get around on foot or using public transport, but it's the best way to meet people and explore your new home.

So much of university life is about getting out, [exploring](#) and using your initiative. Without a car to fall back on, you'll [discover](#) more about the community you now call home.

³ As opposed to a named driver on someone else's policy