

The Guelp^h Transit

Survival Guide
for Students

Oh, the bus. Let us explain some of the rules of the coach bus commonwealth.

Just like visiting a foreign country (or planet), there is a protocol for how to act. There are also certain commuter tricks to make your life easier.

1. Get to Know the Schedule

The first thing to know is that buses don't always run at the same time every day or with the same frequency.

Mon - Fri during PEAK Hours:

Every 20 minutes *from 7am-9:40am and 2pm-5:40pm*

Mon - Fri during non-PEAK Hours:

Every 30 minutes

First bus: 5:45am Last bus: 12:30am

Get to Know the Schedule:

Saturday Hours:

Every 30 minutes *from 5:45am-12:30am*

Sunday Hours:

Every 30 minutes

First bus: 9:15am Last bus: 7:00pm

Go Here and Get Familiar:

www.guelph.ca/living/getting-around/bus/schedules/



2. The Weird as Hell Sunday Schedule:

As we mentioned, Sunday is on the 30-minute schedule. Buses begin their routes at 9:15am and the last of them leave at 6:45pm.

What's more, the last stop of the day will often be mid-route. For example, bus 1A will end its route around Stone Road and Edinburgh, so plan your Sundays accordingly.

3. Timing

Be on time for your bus. And by "on time", we mean early. 5-10 minutes early.

4. The Commute Grind

If you live anywhere that is not at the start of the bus route (i.e. the University or Guelph's downtown station) and it is peak school hours, be prepared to look like a sardine, feel like a sardine, and maybe even smell like a sardine (hey, no one will judge you for what you look or smell like during exams). The worst times are 8-10am and 4-6pm.

5. The Headphone Situation

The mobile canned-human vehicle you ride to class every day has its own sounds - like the tumbling engine, the gentle hiss of the brakes, and the mouth-breathing of your fellow passengers.

What it shouldn't sound like is the annoying screech of music blasting from your headphones. Non-voluntarily subjecting those around you to your particular brand of music is another version of the US Army's use of Van Halen to drive out Noriega in 1989. Not cool.

6. The Seat Beside You

...is not for your bag. Share. All too often students and other commuters can be seen standing in the aisle—an arguably less comfortable commuting position—while someone else has their backpack sitting pretty on a seat that's perfectly contoured for the human body.

Your bag will be just as comfortable on the ground at your feet or in your lap.

7. Priority Seating

The seats at the front of the bus are for disabled and elderly passengers. This means, if you are otherwise healthy and don't know who Archie Bunker is, you gotta get up. Even if it means you'll be awkwardly bouncing to the ebb and flow of the bus, you stand.

Also, strollers are cumbersome and a pain to park on a bus. Usually those seats reserved for disabled and elderly will flip up to leave room for strollers. So if you see a parent making the trek up the ramp of the bus, flip it up and move on down.

8. Aisle Seats

If you are alone, don't sit in the aisle seat leaving an empty seat beside the window. Nobody wants to climb over you to get there, so make the transition easier and just sit in the window seat.

9. Move to the back

Keep going. A little farther. Go ahead. A little more.

Although you may not want to, during peak times, you need to surrender to the necessity of cramming bodies into the back of the bus.

Now, you do run the risk of accidentally brushing up against another human being. For some, this is worse than riding under the bus, but in bulk transport, it's necessary and unavoidable.

In the event that you accidentally brush against someone, just politely apologize and awkwardly smile. It happens to all of us. And smiles are awesome.

10. Move Over

If someone needs to get past you, move over. As mentioned above, this might initiate a weird limb-touch, but it's important. People have to move to the back, so if you're getting off the bus sooner, it means you got to move over, sister.

11. The deal with losing your bus pass

Once upon a time losing your student ID card meant paying \$20 for a replacement of the card AND bus pass sticker. Today, if you lose your card, you may still replace it for \$20, but with NO bus pass sticker until the following semester. Regaining your bus pass sticker means forking out the entire semester cost of the pass (80 bucks).

Hang onto your student ID card for dear life. Consider gluing it to your anatomy, perhaps.

12. Accessories

A cellphone is okay, maybe even necessary for bus rides. Small books or other mobile devices are also groovy. But a big textbook, newspaper, violin, lightsaber, or anything that requires two arms to appropriately handle has to go. There is finite space and you are taking up more than your share with your knobby elbows and ruffling papers. Wait until you get home.

13. Sharing phone conversations

Talking to your mom about the arm-wrestling finals on your phone? No problem, but shut up about it. Talking loudly to anyone on your phone is obnoxious, and doing it while crammed in the sardine can with everyone else makes it all the more unbearable.

Text. It's silent and unobtrusive.

14. Where to get the maps

Paper maps are an archaic form of determining your geographic location. That was until Vladimir Von Google came along and uploaded them all to his site. Now, even the transit system in Guelph is using the inter-tubes. Click here for links to the whole Guelph Transit map, individual route maps, and apps.

Full system map:

www.guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/Guelph_Transit_full_system_map.pdf

Individual routes:

www://guelph.ca/living/getting-around/bus/schedules/

15. The Magic Bus

The glorious magic bus is a unique service offered by the CSA/GSA in partnership with Guelph Transit. Buses leaving the University station head out Friday and Saturday nights, beginning at 12:30am. Buses leave downtown station on pre-determined routes.

Don't abuse it.

Guelph students have lost this service before.

For more information on routes:

www.csaonline.ca/transit/late-night-service/

For late-night system map:

www://216.171.97.243/uploads/Transit/LateNightMAP.pdf

