

Car Parking Policy Documentation

Student Car Parking Policy 2026-27

Effective from Thursday 1 October 2026

Student Car Parking Policy for 2026-27

1. Introduction

Lancaster University has very frequent bus services to the city centre (14 per hour during term time weekdays) and excellent routes for walking and cycling. Most students find they do not need a car. For more details on travel to campus please see the [Travel Website](#).

Access to parking is regulated to limited student categories to ensure that those students who really do need a car are eligible for a car parking digital permit. These are listed in Section 9.

Please also refer to the Car Parking Policy Principal Document for additional policy information, including the policy on parking at Chancellor's Wharf. This document is available on [Policy and Enforcement webpage](#).

2. General Information and Requirements

Please note the following general requirements and information:

- Students without a digital permit should not park on any public roads close to the University campus. This is in the interests of road safety and the local residents.
- Digital permits are for Alexandra Park only (unless stated otherwise) and cost £173 for the full year (12 months).
- Annual digital permits expire on 30th September 2027.
- Parking at the Sports Field Car Park (Visitor Car Park K), the Health Innovation Campus and Chancellor's Wharf is automatically enforced using fixed ANPR cameras (automatic number plate recognition). Further details on parking enforcement can be found [here](#).
- The Alexandra Park car parking zone does not include the car parks of the Lancaster House Hotel; these are privately managed and enforced.
- Only eligible students will be able to obtain digital car parking permits.

- Any supporting documentation will need to provide proof that the stated criterion is satisfied.
- Applications submitted without the necessary evidence, or where any of the required information is missing, will not be processed.
- Each applicant is responsible for ensuring that their evidence arrives at the Parking Office in the Security Lodge. Electronic delivery is recommended: car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk
- Places of employment within the urban core area can normally 'reasonably be reached by public transport', unless work starts before 08:30 (09:45 on Sundays) or finishes after 23:30.
- Student users of plug-in electric vehicles are subject to the same eligibility criteria as student users of other fuelled vehicles. The price charged for a Plug-in Electric Vehicle Digital Permit is £173.

This is a parking only charge, additional payments will be required for the electricity used.

3. Enforcement

For the academic year 2026-27, parking enforcement will take place from 19th October 2026 in the Alexandra Park Parking Zone for those who do not purchase a Digital permit, make payment via RingGo or at Metric Parking Terminal. Further details on parking enforcement can be found [here](#).

4. Cost

- Annual Student Parking Digital Permit (Alexandra Park): **£173**
- Annual Chancellor's Wharf Digital Permit (not valid on main campus): **£173**
- Termly Student Digital Permit (Alexandra Park, Parking Zone or Chancellor's Wharf): **£67.20 per term**
- Monthly Student Digital Permit (Alexandra Park): **£45.15 per month.**

Students must be eligible for the permit they select.

5. Student Staff

Students not residing on campus who are employees of the University, or a tenant based on campus working for more than 8 hours per week, every week during term-time (between 08:00 -18:00 Monday – Friday) may apply for a digital parking permit. This will be an Alexandra Park Permit that is valid only on Alexandra Park, not main campus, for the duration of the employment. Evidence will be required. The employment must be likely to continue for at least two terms. Parking must be in connection with the employment.

This does not apply to student staff on substantive employment contracts with the University. In such cases, the Student Parking Policy does not apply.

6. Students that live on North Campus or South Campus with children aged 5 years or under

Such students are eligible for a Staff Parking Permit and to upgrade this permit to be able to park in the Visitor Parking Zone as well. Please contact the Car Parking Office to arrange: car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk.

7. Summer Vacation

Restrictions on permit eligibility for students do not apply in Summer Vacation periods. In these instances, students can purchase a Summer Vacation Permit for Alexandra Park, priced at £67.20. Note that parking enforcement continues through all vacation periods, including summer.

8. Variable Digital Parking Permit for student societies

Parking session time: 6pm to 8am Monday to Friday - 6pm Friday to 8am Monday

Criteria: Student society membership

Cost: £25 per application per vehicle per annum 1st October through 30th June 2027. (end of term) Permits are non-refundable

Parking zone: Main campus, Alexandra Park and Health Innovation Campus. **Not valid** at Chancellors Wharf, Sports Field or Sports Centre car parks

Permit applications are via LUSU. A valid student ID is required along with payment, and a contact number in case of issue with vehicle parking.

9. Categories of students eligible for a parking permit:

Please contact the Parking Team by email (car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk).

1. Blue Badge holders and students with permanent or temporary reduced mobility or medical conditions that impact on mobility. *

Campus. £173 p.a. No charge for valid Blue Badge holders.

Please email the Car Parking Office, car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk, with a copy of your Blue Badge. If it is a medical condition without a Blue Badge, please contact disability@lancaster.ac.uk, who will assess your eligibility.

2a. Campus residents where the illness or disability of an immediate family member (parent/legal guardian, spouse, brother or sister, grandparents) necessitates frequent visits home. *

Note the permanent/family home postcode must be within 150 miles of the University main campus. (Note: This is offered on compassionate grounds)

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Please email the Car Parking Office car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk.

2b. Students where the illness or a disability of a dependent family member necessitates frequent visits home. The family member must be dependent on the student for support, and the medical evidence will need to confirm this.

Note the permanent/family home postcode must be within 75 miles of the University main campus. (Note: This is offered on grounds on dependency)

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Please email the Car Parking Office car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk.

2c. Campus residents who have lost an immediate family member (parent/legal guardian, spouse, brother or sister, grandparents) in death within the last 6 months.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Please email the Car Parking Office car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk.

3. Any student with children aged 16 or under.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

(If resident on north/south campus - Staff Zone at £289.80 p.a.), plus Visitor Zones if child is aged under 5 years).

Note: FHM students with a child of 11 years or under have the option to upgrade to a Staff Parking Permit at £289.80 which allows parking at Health Innovation Campus.

Please email the Car Parking Office car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk.

4. Campus residents which are required to attend frequent (at least every 3 weeks) medical appointments or medical treatment in an area which cannot reasonably be reached by public transport.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Please email the Car Parking Office car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk.

5a. Campus residents with regular term-time employment more than 10 hours per week who cannot reasonably reach their employment by public transport. Students working on campus will not be eligible for a parking permit.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone £173 p.a. Staff Zone (£289.80 p.a.) if required to be at work between 11pm and 6.30am.

Please email the Car Parking Office, car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk, with evidence - letter on headed paper from employer confirming hours of work and that work is during term-time and 1 x monthly or 2 x weekly current payslips (with times of work if night work)

- Random sampling of employment applications with employers will be conducted to ensure fairness of process.
- Places of work must be less than 75 miles from campus.

5b. Campus residents with regular (most weeks throughout the year) course related activity that can't reasonably be reached by public transport. This does not apply to off campus students.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Please email the Car Parking Office, car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk, with a letter signed by the Head of Department, including the required frequency of activity.

5c. Campus residents with regular volunteer work more than 5 hours a week which cannot reasonably be reached by public transport. This does not apply to students that live off-campus.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Volunteer work provided by an immediate family member (parent/legal guardian, grandparent, spouse, brother or sister) cannot be included.

- Places of voluntary work must be less than 75 miles from campus.
- Voluntary work must be for a charitable based organisation.

Please email the Car Parking Office, car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk, with a letter signed by the provider of volunteer work confirming the individual's good or long-standing assistance and work over at least 5 hours per week most weeks during term time.

6. Campus residents who have brought their car with them by ferry from their home overseas.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Please email the Car Parking Office car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk.

7. Any student whose term-time address is off-campus and outside the defined urban core area. This will be checked on student records.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Please email the Car Parking Office, car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk, with proof of term-time address.

8a. Campus residents who are pursuing training or development as an excellent athlete representing their country or Great Britain, and/or undertaking elite sport in a professional capacity, and whose need extends beyond what is provided at the University.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

It requires the student to attend training/competition and other associated meetings on a regular basis, which cannot be reasonably reached by public transport.

Please email the Car Parking Office, car-parking@lancaster.ac.uk, with a letter written and signed by the National Governing Body / Head Coach.

8b. Campus residents who would regularly, with the use of a vehicle, transport other members of their university club or society to enable them to participate in the group's key activity where that activity by its very nature cannot be performed on campus, e.g. canoeing, mountaineering, sailing, etc.

Alexandra Park Parking Zone only. £173 p.a.

Please complete an application form available from the Students' Union Activities Office – su.activities@lancaster.ac.uk.

* Category 1 and 2a: Varying permit lengths apply to reflect the sometimes-temporary nature of the mobility impediment or sick dependent relative. This temporary approach to permit eligibility provides a fairer and more appropriate way to manage the need, based on temporary mobility or sickness issues. This is addressed through the issuing of Termly Permits or Monthly Permits.