

My first impressions of life in the UK

1 I came to the UK one and a half years ago, in 2010, from Pakistan. When I came here,
2 everything was totally different.

3 I lived in a village in Pakistan. There were open areas, the houses were large and the
4 gardens were big and open. In the UK, houses are small and joined together, and the roads
5 are wider, much straighter and busier. There are so many buildings and long streets and
6 much less open space.

7 When I arrived here I felt very good. Everything looked neat, clean and organised. The
8 weather was good as well because I came here in June. At that time of year, the weather in
9 Pakistan is very hot, but the weather here was cool and nice.

10 I came on a Spouse Visa, as my wife was already here, and I lived with my in-laws. Other
11 family members lived here as well so it didn't take long for the UK to feel like home. It always
12 takes time to settle down when you come from another country to the UK. Everything was
13 different and completely new for me. I didn't know the area and I didn't know where the
14 shops or other things were. I couldn't speak or understand much English, so it was hard.

15 Then I got a job in a restaurant. While working around British people, I started understanding
16 English. Now I know almost every part of my area. My family, especially my wife, helped me
17 to settle in the UK. She took me everywhere with her and told me about everything. She's
18 been very helpful. I have adjusted and am really happy now. The UK feels like my home
19 now, just like Pakistan did.

Naveed_Akhtar

Pakistani man living in UK

