

Student Accommodation Options – Overview

University Halls

They are usually managed by the university or in partnership with a private company, and the quality is generally good as they have to comply with national codes.

University accommodation continues to progress and the quality of halls is a far cry from the basic days of yester year. Open days are a great way to help you decide on your University and this opportunity should be used to also consider the accommodation on offer.

Many universities guarantee a place in halls for full-time first-year students and international postgraduates, as long as you meet application deadlines. However, this will vary between institutions.

As they're typically located on campus, living in halls puts you at the centre of student life. It's a great way to make friends and to get involved in social activities. While your bedroom may be small, all the facilities you need (for example a laundrette) are usually on-site, and the university accommodation team is on hand when it comes to maintenance.

Then there is the social element, people, Halls are full of like-minded individuals, however initially you may find the numbers overwhelming and unlike anything you have be used to. The average halls can cater for 100's of students with apartments accommodating anything from 4 to 20 students. This is the roll of the dice part and hopefully you will get fellow flat mates who aren't too messy, or annoying!

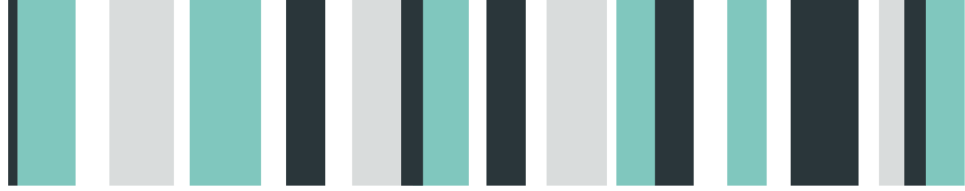
In conclusion, halls are a great foundation for making initial friends at University, so make sure you embrace your new surroundings.

More detailed and specific information regarding your University halls will be available from the University Accommodation Office or the University website.

Private Halls

In privately operated halls you can expect to share your accommodation with other universities across the city, giving you the opportunity to expand your social circles. This accommodation option is managed independently from the University and will often feature all the latest and essential facilities however this will be reflected in your weekly cost.

Location wise private accommodation can range from city centre to right out of town. Most of the main halls are positioned in prime locations so access to the main city attractions is easy. Purpose built accommodation will generally include all bills but never include catering, (barring the odd free breakfast in some) so make sure you budget accordingly.



Your student loan may not cover the extent of private accommodation so ensure you budget accordingly to be able manage any shortfall. It is also important to note that some private accommodation will have longer contracts to University halls, which can be as long as 52 weeks in some cases.

To find out how much you'll pay in rent, see your university's website, as costs vary significantly depending on location and facilities.

Private Rented Accommodation

You may prefer to live in a privately rented house, which usually accommodates around four or five people. This is the path followed by most students from the second year onwards, but also by some first years.

One advantage is getting to choose who you live with (for second-year students this usually means moving in with friends made in first year), which can make for a better experience.

Also, this type of accommodation can often be more spacious than University Halls or Purpose Built Student Accommodation, with larger bedrooms, many will have separate kitchen / dining place, and a defined living room. Because of the layout of a typical traditional student house there is often a greater amount of spare space in hallways and cellars and generally they will benefit from either a garden or outdoor place, ideal for summer BBQ's. Student Houses are also often of a more solid construction as compared to newer properties, with better sound proofing qualities.

The standard and rental costs of private accommodations will vary vastly based on distance from campus and specification, it is very important to consider any additional costs as normally utility bills are not included and without adequate control the costs may spiral over the period of your tenancy. The best Student Houses in any University town or city will always be booked very early each year, so you will need to be quick if your group have a certain property in mind.

This isn't an easy choice to make, so make sure you get advice from as many sources as possible. Family and friends who have been to university before are a good starting point. We can also help you gather more insight into the private rented accommodation and making the whole process of moving a lot easier or you.

