

ACCOMMODATION...

To enjoy your experience in Great Britain, it is vital that you are comfortable and safe in the place you are living. Rent is likely to be one of your major expenses so finding something within your budget is important. You will probably be nicely settled by the time you read this however we thought we would give you a brief overview so you had some information in case you need to move during your stay here.

For a start it can be expensive – let's not beat around the bush, and accommodation will take up a giant amount of your money. Below is a brief overview of basic and approximate costs and the different options available to you.

HALLS OF RESIDENCE

Many universities have halls in which to accommodate students – these are ideal in your first year and offer a great way to settle into university life. You will be surrounded by like minded individuals and will have the opportunity of spreading your wings and exploring that all life has to offer, whilst being in relatively close proximity to the main university buildings and activities.

Halls can be single sex or mixed (although the floors will be single sex), you will often share bathroom and cooking facilities unless you are lucky enough to have ensuite accommodation. Life in halls is a lot of fun and you will make some great friends and take away some excellent memories from your experiences in this lively environment.

INDEPENDENT HALLS & HOSTELS

A similar environment to halls, but these are owned by private business' or charitable organisations and sometimes offer accommodation for families and couples. As well as providing accommodation, they offer a homely environment, often with social opportunities and events. Usually meals are provided, or there are some basic cooking facilities. Hostels are very popular and competition is fierce, so apply in plenty of time.

FAMILY ACCOMMODATION

It is worth contacting your university accommodation office if you wish to bring your family to the UK as accommodation for couples and children is in high demand.

They will hold details of suitable places to stay both short and long term. A very good website for accommodation queries is www.accommodationforstudents.com.

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

Private renting is more responsibility than living in halls as you are responsible for the rent, the bills and some insurances, however do not be put off as although it is more responsibility it also offers a lot more flexibility.

You can rent rooms in shared houses or shared flats or indeed one bed flats but be warned as this can be quite lonely. Shared houses are a great environment to get involved in and allow you to learn to live on your own whilst being surrounded by friends and other students. The only thing to bear in mind is that you need to create your own social life as there isn't the programme of events that are provided in halls.

It is usually advised to live in Halls for your first year, as it gives you more of a chance to make friends, socialise and adapt to uni life.

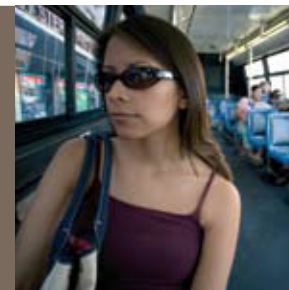
In your second year why not gather a group of your friends and live together in private accommodation? It will feel like Halls again!

When agreeing to take up a place in accommodation, whether halls or privately rented please do NOT sign any contract or agreement you do not understand; take it to a student adviser or accommodation officer and keep copies!! Always remember to ask for a receipt for each payment.

TOP TIP...

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

YOU WILL SAVE MONEY LIVING FURTHER AWAY FROM THE CITY CENTRE BUT YOU WILL USUALLY PAY MORE FOR TRAVEL AND ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THAT 9.00 AM LECTURE!



SO NOW WE GET TO THE COSTS...

Rents vary greatly according to type, quality and location, see the average price of living in your selected area www.rentright.co.uk/rspi.aspx for a breakdown of average rental costs in different types of accommodation.

COSTS FOR UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE HALLS OF RESIDENCE ARE USUALLY BASED AROUND MARKET RATES AND ARE DEPENDANT ON THE TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION YOU CHOOSE. YOUR INSTITUTION'S WEBSITE WILL HAVE DETAILS OF THEIR EXACT COSTS.

However as a rough guide, outside of London, the average rent is £80 per week for university halls.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR ACCOMMODATION

www.gumtree.co.uk – excellent listings site advertising private accommodation... amongst other things!

www.rightmove.co.uk – More for private accommodation.

www.studentpad.co.uk – nationwide listings

Private accommodation is also advertised in local newspapers, shop windows and on college notice boards!

Find your ideal housemates or student home online



You don't have to bend over backwards to find your perfect housemates! Search from thousands of properties and listings all shown on a Google map. Contact student landlords and letting agents with one click or deposit your requirements on our message board and let them come to you. Simply visit: www.easysfs.com

334 Broadstone House,
Broadstone Road, Stockport, SK5 7DL
Tel: 0845 351 9911 Fax: 0161 332 8261
www.accommodationforstudents.com

DID YOU KNOW?

...NOWHERE IN BRITAIN IS MORE THAN 74½ MILES FROM THE SEA.