

All about accommodation!



Options

You have different options for where you live when at university.

1. **Live at home** – this will only be possible if you are studying somewhere near to your home or if you are able to commute via car/train/bus.
2. **University Halls of Residence** - Halls of residence are course provider-owned premises designed to accommodate a large number of students. However, they're very popular so you might not get your first choice. While they're mostly reserved for first years, returning students often put their name down for them too. Why? Because they're cheap, convenient, and close to campus.
You'll need to apply for a place in halls of residence through your chosen course provider's accommodation office, and you can usually do this online. Check the course provider's website for details on how and when to do this.
3. **Private Halls of Residence** - University towns have lots of other accommodation options, including private halls of residence. These are like normal halls of residence, but aren't owned by the course provider. They're usually part of a UK-wide chain of purpose-built student accommodation. You could be living with students who don't go to your university.
4. **Private Rental** – You may find a room available in a shared house or choose to rent a property with some of your friends from your University or course. This is more common for students after the first year when they have established a group of people they would like to share with.

Key terms for accommodation

Deposit	An amount of money put down in advance. This could either be refundable or non-refundable (Check the small print!) for some accommodation rental, the return of your deposit can be dependent on the condition that you return the property in.
Guarantor	A guarantor is a person (often a parent) who will agree to support you in a contract – e.g. renting a property. They agree to pick up the bill if you miss payments. They should: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be over 18 years old;• be resident in the UK; and• have a good credit history.
Catered halls	Some meals, usually breakfast and evening meal are included in the cost of your accommodation
Self-Catered	You are responsible for preparing all your own meals. You will have kitchen facilities in your accommodation in order to enable you to do this
Furnished/unfurnished	Most student properties will be furnished with furniture and appliances. Check carefully as an unfurnished property will require you bring your own beds, sofas, fridges etc.
Utilities	This is the term given to household bills like gas, electricity and water. They may be referred to as included (in your rent) or excluded (paid by you on top of your rent).

Booking Accommodation

University Halls: You can apply for University Halls directly through their websites.

You should apply for accommodation at your Firm UCAS choice.

They will ask you to pay a deposit for your accommodation.

If you end up not going to this university you may get your deposit back – YOU NEED TO CHECK THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL UNIVERSITY.

There will be a deadline for applications for each university. Please apply by this time in order to guarantee a place.

Private Halls: All the information for private halls will be on their individual websites. Look for reviews to see how other people have found it. Read the terms and conditions carefully to see what will happen if you do not end up taking up the tenancy.

Private Rentals: You will need to look on the online listings for properties in your area. Look at reviews to make sure the letting agents are trustworthy and look after their tenants!

When you pay for accommodation

Before you move in	Deposits are paid prior to you moving in to the accommodation.
Termly OR	University halls will often time your accommodation payments to link up with when you are paid your maintenance loan – this is 3 times per year.
Monthly	Many private rentals will charge you for accommodation on a set date each month. This means that you will be responsible for making sure you have kept money available for when your rent is due.

Top tips

- Check what is included – are all bills included? The cost of living in halls of residence usually includes electricity and water bills, but you'll still need to pay for things like insurance and a TV licence.
- Consider the essentials – you'll need things for your bedroom and kitchen. If you move into halls of residence, check what's there already so you don't buy things unnecessarily.
- Watch virtual tours or attend a virtual open day – see what the campus and facilities are like from the comfort of your home! Check course provider websites – they could have pictures of what their halls of residence look like, and you may be able to reserve a room online. They'll list the facilities available and any costs associated with them