



A quick guide to student accommodation for international students

Before arriving in the UK, you should have a known destination (address) of where you will be staying in your first few weeks, preferably near to where you will be studying.

This quick guide will provide you with some advice and tips about finding temporary accommodation and will highlight options for long term accommodation. You should also see the [**UWS Living Costs in the UK**](#) webpage for information.

3 Things you can do before arriving in the UK:

- do as much research as possible before you leave home
- book accommodation in advance of your arrival to the UK. This is especially important if you are a doctoral level (PhD student) arriving with your family as your accommodation choice is more limited.
- familiarise yourself with your address, know the exact rent (what to expect to pay) and what the transport will be like for travelling to and from university

Securing accommodation in advance, will greatly ease your transition to living in the UK as it is often hard to find accommodation on arrival and it can ease your immigration entry to the UK where you may be asked questions by border control about where you will be living.

To understand the different types of accommodation that is available, see the [**UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\)**](#) website which explains accommodation options available for international students.

University accommodation

While renting privately may seem a cheaper option, the monthly rent won't include any household bills. Have a look at our [**Private Rental guide in the 'Accommodation' section of the Living Costs in the UK webpage**](#). **University accommodation must be booked in advance before you arrive in the UK in order to secure your room booking.**

Private accommodation

Whilst most students prefer to live close to their campus, it is likely you will need to use the public transport network as not all students will be able to find accommodation close to the university. If you haven't already done so, consider widening your search area to include accommodation within commuting distance from your campus. See the [**Private Rental Guide**](#) in the **'Accommodation'** section of the Living Costs in the UK webpage which will help you make an informed decision about renting privately.

Temporary accommodation

If you need to find temporary accommodation, there are plenty of hotels and B&Bs close to the University campus. You can find more information on the [Visit Scotland webpages](#) or on the [Hello Student London website](#). Alternatively, most city centres have hostels which provide cheap accommodation often sharing with other students/travellers and would be a short-term option. You can find more information on the [European hostel world webpages](#).

- It is often cheaper to pay for temporary accommodation in advance rather than booking this at the last minute when there are fewer options to choose from.

Other accommodation options

There may be the opportunity to book a room to stay as a lodger in local homes for a short period of time. If lodgings are available, they will be advertised on [SpareRoom](#). SpareRoom puts you in touch with other flat mates and advertises rooms available to rent. It also has useful information and advice including safety tips and where to live in London plus [Info and Advice for Flat sharers](#).

- Once you have arrived in the UK, if you are looking for long term accommodation, speak to other students on your course and you will find most people are happy to share information with you and provide suggestions of where to look.
- **You will be expected to find private accommodation by yourself as the university is unable to secure this for you and bookings for university accommodation will not be open if you arrive out of hours.**



Finding a referee and paying a deposit

If you have previously stayed in private accommodation in the UK, contact your previous landlord. If you don't have a UK referee, you might be asked to pay up to two months' rent as a deposit instead of the usual one month. You cannot be asked to pay a deposit which is greater than two months' rent.

Finding a guarantor

A guarantor is a third party who agrees to take on liabilities arising from someone else's tenancy. This means that they guarantee rent payments and other tenancy obligations, for example, landlord losses, expenses, or damages. A guarantor is not a legal requirement, but there is nothing to stop landlords or letting agents from insisting on one. Some landlords will insist any guarantor be UK based. If you are unable to provide a guarantor acceptable to the landlord, you will need to consider another landlord. Some landlords will take rent in advance in place of the guarantor. The maximum allowable for this is six months in a Private Residential Tenancy. See the [Private Rental Guide](#) (page 14) in the **'Accommodation'** section of the Living Costs in the UK webpage for more details about guarantors.

Alternatively, there are private companies that can act as your guarantor such as [Housing Hand](#) or [UK Guarantor](#). This can be an expensive option and you will still need a co-signer to agree to pay your rent if you do not, although the co-signer does not need to be resident in the UK.

Paying Rent

Deposit payments for accommodation in the UK can usually be paid by credit or debit card. You are strongly advised not to bring large sums of cash into the UK as not all places accept cash and it is at risk of being lost or stolen. Once you have enrolled at UWS you can request a letter to set up a bank account. Request a bank letter in the [Student Hub Portal](#).

If you find yourself with an emergency housing issue and the university is closed, please contact the charity [Shelter](#) if living in England or [Shelter Scotland](#) if living in Scotland.

Insurance of Personal Belongings

Contents insurance covers your personal belongings (this can include mobile phones, laptops and other valuables) against theft, loss and damage (including fire/flood damage). To find out more, see the [Save the Student website](#) which explains how Contents insurance works and includes links to price comparison sites.