





APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION

From March / April you need to start the process of applying for student accommodation so you need to check the details of the university websites to see what the options and deadlines are. You apply for accommodation at whichever university you have made your FIRM choice so you need to make your decision first. You are advised to look really carefully at the university's website to see the different options that they offer. There will often be pictures and videos of what the halls of residence look like and you will sometimes be able to reserve a room online. They will list the facilities available and any costs associated with them.

General help is available at:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/undergraduate-accommodation>

<https://accommodation.ucas.com>

[How to apply for student accommodation | UCAS](#)

<http://university.which.co.uk/advice/student-accommodation/applying-for-university-accommodation>

<http://university.which.co.uk/advice/student-accommodation/how-to-pick-the-right-student-accommodation-for-you>

Things to bear in mind:

- Cost - costs start from around £90 per week for a basic room a bus ride away from campus to as much as £200 per week (£230 plus in London) for a self-contained studio flat within the student village. Before you start looking at rooms, you need to work out what you can, realistically, afford. Contract lengths are usually around 40 weeks (you don't have to pay for halls during the summer holidays). Remember that an extra £10 a week adds up to an extra £400 per year and so on!
- The costs are so radically different so it is important to be realistic about how you want to live. Sharing bathrooms and kitchens is cheaper and can be much more sociable and a good way of making friends. If you are too self-contained there is sometimes a greater potential to become isolated.
- Think about private student accommodation – these are often similar to university halls, but you will not always be living with people who go to your university. There may also be different facilities available, and you might have more freedom as to what you can and can't bring with you. Private halls are often owned by companies who build halls of residence near universities all over the country, so a quick internet search will provide you with reviews on a national scale. Private halls can be more luxurious but will often also be more expensive
- Read the small print – most accommodation providers (including halls of residence) have strict guidelines and rules on what you can and can't bring / have with you. There might be other important things you will need to know too, like parking restrictions and health and safety issues.
- Check what bills you will need to pay – the cost of living in halls of residence usually includes electricity and water bills, but you will still need to pay for things like insurance and a broadband

- Consider the essentials – you will need things for your bedroom and kitchen. If you move into halls of residence, check what is there already so you don't buy things unnecessarily.
- Consider your fellow flat-mates – different accommodation types will mean that you are more, or less, involved with the others who share your accommodation. Catered halls will usually mean that you live more independently, whilst in other cases you will need to share cooking facilities. In some cases, you will have a room in a corridor with large common rooms and social spaces organised by the hall, but in other places you will be in a traditional flat-share situation where you may have to negotiate sharing other living spaces too. You will need to think about which of these situations suits you best.

Above all, there is no right answer, only what is right for you.