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| HIGHER EDUCATION PREPARATION |
|  | **ACCOMMODATION** |  |

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| 1 | **HALLS OF RESIDENCE** | A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated |
| **Most first-year students choose to live in halls of residence, as they can offer a straightforward way of moving away from home and transitioning to independent living.** |
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| **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY-MANAGED** |
| These are typically **individual**, **furnished** bedrooms organised around **shared kitchens and bathrooms** (although **en-suite** rooms are becoming **more common**). Often located **close to campus**, or attached to a college or university bus link, colleges and universities **may be able to guarantee** you a room if you **fulfil certain criteria**.

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| **A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated** | **Check the application process (including deadline)** |
| Most colleges and universities can **only guarantee accommodation** if you select them as your **‘firm’ UCAS** |
| **choice** and/or **apply by their deadline**. The most desirable rooms may fill up quick, so make sure to **apply early**. |

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|  | **Explore your back-up option(s)** |
| Many colleges and universities will ask you to **rank your accommodation preferences** and **may not be**  |
| **able to offer your first choice**. As such, make sure that you can **afford the rent for your other choice(s)** and **investigate other sources of accommodation** (e.g. privately-managed halls of residence and privately-rented accommodation). Explore how to book **accommodation at your insurance choice** college or university. |

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| **PRIVATELY-MANAGED** |
| These are **similar** in many ways to college- and university-managed halls of residence, except they are **owned** and **operated** by an **independent company**. In large cities, private halls may be open to those studying at **all nearby colleges and universities**. Privately-managed options may include a **range of features not traditionally offered** as part of college- and university-managed halls of residence.

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|  | **Check the cost** |
| Prices can be **more expensive** than university-managed options. |

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| my student halls | Explore the range of privately-managed halls of residence available where you are studying: **https://bit.ly/2Zb21zG** |

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| 2 | **PRIVATE-RENTED HOUSING** | **A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated** |
| **Colleges and universities can typically only offer their halls of residence to students in their first year. For some students, a house or flat share may be the best option for their first year.** |
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|  | **Speak to student services** |
| Your college or university may have a **housing office** who can help you **find housemates** and/or share a  |
| **list of trusted landlords** and **student-focussed letting agencies**. |

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|  | **Read the tenancy agreement** |
| **Question anything** **you are not sure about** and **ask someone more experienced to look over it** with you (e.g.  |
| student services**). Do not feel pressured into signing anything you feel uncomfortable with**; most areas have a surplus of student housing. **Save The Student** has a **guide of what to check** before signing a tenancy agreement: [**https://bit.ly/3670a0a**](https://bit.ly/3670a0a)**.** |

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|  | **Add up all the costs** |
| Unlike halls of residence, **bills** such as electricity, gas, water and internet are **typically not included in your**  |
| **rent.** You may also need to **apply for council tax exemption**. Discuss with your **housemates** how you are going to **divide** these between you and **who is going to be responsible** for arranging payments. |

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| **Useful websites for finding private-rented housing:**

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| [**https://bit.ly/2WFMciM**](https://bit.ly/2WFMciM) |

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| Studentpad |
| [**https://bit.ly/2yeSSLq**](https://bit.ly/2yeSSLq) |

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| UK Residential Property Data - Rightmove Data Services |
| [**https://bit.ly/2Lzl0fe**](https://bit.ly/2Lzl0fe) |

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| Spareroom – Logos Download |
| [**https://bit.ly/2zOrd4c**](https://bit.ly/2zOrd4c) |

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| **THINGS TO CONSIDER** |
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|  | **Tenancy length** |
| This could be **term-time** only, **12-months** or **40-** |
| **weeks**. The length of the tenancy agreement you sign up to will impact on **where you live during the holidays** and **how much you will be spending on rent**. |

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|  | **Admin**  |
| There is typically **more admin** involved in renting  |
| private accommodation as you will be **organising contracts**, **bills** and **contacting your landlord** if required. If **someone moves out**, you and your other housemates may be **responsible** for **finding a new housemate** (and any **rent** due whilst the room is vacant). Most of this is taken care for you in halls of residence. |

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|  | **Flexibility** |
| **Sharing a space** with others can naturally pose |
| some **challenges**. Private-rented accommodation can offer more choice around **who you live with**, **where you live** and the **type of accommodation** you share together. |

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| **A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated** | **Location** |
| Will you be able to **travel** to and from campus and  |
| other amenities (for example shops) **affordably**, **conveniently**, and **reliably**? Is the area **safe**, particularly for when returning home late at night? The **Police.uk** website provides **crime statistics** and **maps** plus information about **local policing teams**: [**https://bit.ly/3dVKGPj**](https://bit.ly/3dVKGPj) |

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| A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated | **Costs** |
| Although you will usually have to **organise and pay**  |
| **your bills separately**, privately renting is typically **cheaper** than halls of residence. |

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|  | **Support services** |
| College- and university-managed, and often  |
| privately-managed, halls of residence have services in place such as a **reception** plus **security** and **maintenance** **teams**. This typically is **not available** in **private-rented accommodation**. |

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College/university and company **websites** will have **details of their accommodation options** and the **prices** they charge. If possible, **book a tour/viewing,** as photographs on websites may not show the whole picture. You can also use **web forums**, such as **The Student Room** ([**https://bit.ly/2X8wJ9N**](https://bit.ly/2X8wJ9N)), to ask students what they think about their accommodation. |

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| **MY ACCOMMODATION RESEARCH** |
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| **SLN Connect** is funded by the **Office for Students** and works in partnership with the **Chichester College Group** to provide **free** and **impartial** **information, advice and guidance on progression pathways** (including **college** and **university** study and **apprenticeships**). |
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|  | **SLNConnect@chigroup.ac.uk** |

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|  | [**sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk**](https://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/) |

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