

# HIGHER EDUCATION PREPARATION

## ACCOMMODATION

1

### HALLS OF RESIDENCE

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.



#### 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**.



#### 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**.



#### 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.

#### 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.



#### Check the cost

Prices can be **more expensive** than university-managed options.



Explore the range of privately-managed halls of residence available where you are studying:

<https://bit.ly/2Zb21zG>

2

### PRIVATE-RENTED HOUSING

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.



#### 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**.



#### 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>.



#### 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.

Useful websites for finding private-rented housing:

[accommodation for students.com](https://bit.ly/2WFMciM)

<https://bit.ly/2WFMciM>

[studentpad](https://bit.ly/2yeSSLq)

<https://bit.ly/2yeSSLq>

[rightmove](https://bit.ly/2Lzl0fe)

<https://bit.ly/2Lzl0fe>

[SpareRoom](https://bit.ly/2zOrd4c)

<https://bit.ly/2zOrd4c>

## THINGS TO CONSIDER



### 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**.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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/2OKseIT>



### Costs

Although you will usually have to **organise and pay your bills separately**, privately renting is typically **cheaper** than halls of residence.



### 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**.

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>), to ask students what they think about their accommodation.

## MY ACCOMMODATION RESEARCH

