Parents' guides

A place to live: accommodation

Starting university can be as daunting for parents as for new students. Accommodation can vary immensely between different universities. So what do you need to know?

What's on offer?

'University accommodation' is provided by, controlled, and maintained by the university your son or daughter goes to. It's typical for accommodation to be provided for new undergraduate students, but whether this is guaranteed will differ from university to university.

Some key terms explained:

Self-catered: students have access to a fully equipped kitchen so they can cook for themselves. They usually have to provide their own crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils.

Catered: no kitchens (but they usually have some facilities for making snacks). Meals are either provided directly, or significantly discounted in food outlets at the university.

Other options to consider:

- duration of let (term-time only, or including vacations)?

- a shared or en-suite bathroom?

- a room of their own, or with a room-mate?

- what's their budget?

> As well as being able to cook for myself it was easy to pop out to one of the food outlets on campus whenever I fancied.
>
> Kirsty, BSc Biological Sciences
> Wedderburn Hall (self-catered)

OUR GUARANTEE

We guarantee a room for all new undergraduates who firmly accept our offer, and apply for accommodation, by the UCAS and our student accommodation deadline.

The process

Apply: by the accommodation deadline set by the university to guarantee a place. Typically, your son or daughter will be asked to list several options in order of preference.

Allocation: takes place by the university after the accommodation deadline. Your son or daughter will be offered as close a match to their preference as is practical.

Payment: after he or she has been given a room offer, the details of the payment plan will be made available.

Moving in: the most exciting, and sometimes emotional, bit! He or she will be sent details of arrival dates and times leading up to the start of term.

Living off-campus

If your son or daughter doesn't get a place in halls, or decides that they would rather live in private accommodation, don't worry, there are plenty of options. Most students in their second and final year of university also tend to live in private accommodation. Private accommodation can either be houses or flats in the local area, or in private halls of residences (these offer a very similar environment to university halls of residence but are privately owned and managed).

And if they're not happy?

Before they start, the easiest thing to do is talk to the Student Accommodation team. Once they've moved in, there'll be a Resident Support team your child can contact with any issues. Most universities also have a Community Support team to help students living off-campus in private sector accommodation.