

Section 2 - Connect with your University



Organising your accommodation

Choosing where to live while studying is a big decision and it's important to take the time to find out what's available and what would best suit your needs. "Living in" is a phrase which refers to living in halls or other official university accommodation. Generally speaking, students will live in halls for the first year of university, before having the option to move into rented accommodation during subsequent years.

Your time spent living in halls is excellent because you'll be thrown in with a group of people, giving you a chance to get to know them. They're also usually situated on a campus or otherwise close to where your lectures are, meaning that you won't have to travel too far on a day-to-day basis.

When it comes to the conditions of halls, it will differ depending on how much you're paying. Universities tend to offer accommodation at a range of different price points, so that as many people as possible have a place to live that they can afford. Paying more might mean that the accommodation you live in is newer, or that you don't need to share a bathroom with other people.

Things to Consider – Student Accommodation

If you're reading this before choosing your accommodation for first year, take some of the following questions into account before choosing:

- How long can I stay in the accommodation for? When can I first move in? When do I need to move out? Can I stay in halls during the breaks between terms, or do I need to move out temporarily?
- Do I get the same room throughout the year? Will I need to change between terms? Will this mean I get split up from the people I'm currently living with?
- How far is the accommodation from where my lectures will be?
- What amenities does the accommodation have? Are there common rooms and/or libraries that I can use? What about music rooms and sports grounds?
- What kind of storage is available in the bedrooms and kitchens?
- Are the halls catered (meals prepared for by staff and eaten at set mealtimes) or self-catered (you have to cook for yourself!)?
- How much does the accommodation cost?
- Will I get a room to myself, or will I have to share with someone else (this is quite rare nowadays, but worth checking since some universities still have shared accommodation)?

- Will I have to share a bathroom, or will I get my own?

When applying for university accommodation, you should be able to find answers to all of these questions in various materials on the university website. If you aren't sure about details regarding accommodation, try and get in contact with the university. They'll be able to shed some additional light on the pros and cons of the different accommodation that they offer.

Still unsure?

Why not read through the Student case studies in **Section 2** of our guide – **Advice from former Thomas Telford Students**.

We also recommend using some of the resources in **Section 5** – Learning how to manage your money for advice on how to manage your budget.

Want some inspiration?

Check out this article on ways to decorate your room on a budget:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/student/student-life/accommodation/student-accommodation-10-cheap-ways-to-decorate-your-room-at-university-a6677151.html>