

Student Guide - Moving into Student Accommodation



You're about to embark on university life. Going to uni isn't just about books and exams, it's also about becoming independent and gaining the opportunity to explore a new place and make friends for life!

Before you can move all of your belongings in and start your university experience, there are a few things to keep in mind. This guide will be useful in preparing you for moving into student accommodation and getting your student life off to the best possible start.



Items to remember

It is important that you remember to take various items – especially if your university is a long way from your parents' home. you'll also need to consider how you're getting to university; if you're getting public transport then you'll need to keep your suitcases to a minimum.

But don't panic they will have shops where you're going, and it could be easier (and cheaper) to wait until arriving at university before buying some items.

Here is a helpful check list of the some of the items you'll want to take with you:

Documents

- ✓ Passport and/or driving licence (ID)
- ✓ University offer letter
- ✓ Accommodation contract
- ✓ Student Finance documents/letters
- ✓ Insurance documents
- ✓ NHS number / Doctor and dentist details
- ✓ National Insurance number
- ✓ Bank account details
- ✓ Doctor and dentist details
- ✓ Exam certificates

Electrical Items

- ✓ Laptop/ tablet and cases
- ✓ Device Charger
- ✓ USB stick (for saving backup copies of important assignments/presentations)
- ✓ Ethernet Cable
- ✓ Extension lead
- ✓ Headphones

Housekeeping

- ✓ Laundry bag (to keep dirty clothes in before you wash them)
- ✓ Clothes hangers
- ✓ Clothes horse
- ✓ Washing powder
- ✓ Iron and compact ironing board

In shared living accommodation you're likely to end up with at least one person with a toastie maker... in fact there will be multiples of lots of kitchen items, and most people are happy to share cooking equipment and appliances. If you can, try to find out in advance what appliances will be supplied in your accommodation. You'll want to take things like your own plates and cutlery, but most people are happy to share cooking equipment, and appliances like kettles and toasters.

Kitchen Items

- ✓ Small cutlery set
- ✓ Plate, bowl, mug, glass
- ✓ Cooking knife
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Food storage containers
- ✓ Can opener
- ✓ Chopping board
- ✓ Cooking utensils
- ✓ Frying pan



- ✓ Saucepan
- ✓ Measuring Jug
- ✓ Cheese grater
- ✓ Peeler
- ✓ Baking tray
- ✓ Tea Towels
- ✓ Washing up liquid & Sponge/cloth
- ✓ Bin bags
- ✓ Tin foil



Find out what bedroom furniture will be provided in your accommodation. Typically, this includes a bed, bedside table, desk, lamp, chair, wardrobe, mirror, curtains and a bin. Still, it's worth checking for sure.

Bedroom & Bathroom Items

- ✓ Duvet & pillows
- ✓ Bed sheets
- ✓ Mattress protector
- ✓ Mirror
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Toilet rolls!

There may be times when you feel a bit homesick, particularly on the first night in your new room. To help counteract this, you should take with you some things to make your new room feel like home. This could include photographs of friends or family, fairy lights, lamps, extra cushions, teddies, throws & blankets, a rug, plants, ornaments.

As well as all your **toiletries** and **clothes**, here are some **miscellaneous** items you might not want to forget.

- ✓ Rucksack
- ✓ Umbrella
- ✓ Padlock
- ✓ Drinking water bottle

- ✓ Hot water bottle
- ✓ Bicycle
- ✓ Games or pack of cards
- ✓ Tea, coffee & milk
- ✓ Biscuits or chocolate (for instant friends)
- ✓ Keys for home

With so much to buy, things can get expensive! So it's always worth checking on [NUS](#) and [UNIDAYS](#) what discounts are available to students.

How to stay safe

Your time at uni should be one of the most enjoyable and exciting times of your life, and it should be something you're free to enjoy. But it's always good to have a little reminder of how to stay safe while living in student accommodation. Here are a few tips: -

- Make yourself familiar with the area, find out your nearest bus route and get the details of a local taxi service.
- You may also want to consider taking out insurance to protect your valuable possessions.
- You could also get your laptop/mobile/tablet marked using a UV pen for extra security – this means that in the event of it being stolen, it'll be easily tracked down again.
- Keep your phone in a safe place, use a strong password and make sure it's fully charged before going out.
- Don't attached your name or address to your keys and make sure all windows and doors are locked before heading out.



There is also your **personal safety** to consider. You may find yourself surrounded by unlimited supplies of alcohol and no parents/guardians around can make it very tempting to get drunk on a regular basis. You should always drink responsibly, at the same time paying attention to your drinks when you're out.

- Never go back to an unattended drink, and always keep your thumb over the top of the bottle for extra safety.
- Have a plan for how you're getting home at the end of a night.
- Make sure no one is left behind and don't leave anyone to wait around on their own.
- Always let someone know where you're going and who you're going with.



Getting on with your housemates

The reality of sharing a kitchen and bathroom with complete strangers for an entire year can be a lot to take in, especially when they may be people you haven't chosen to live with. But with a few tips there's no reason you can't live in harmony.

- Let each other know your daily routine - when you'll be up using the bathroom in the morning for example, or when you're going out and coming back.
- Respect personal space – some people like to spend more time alone than others.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Be kind – you never know what someone is going through so don't be too quick to judge.
- Communication – if something is bothering you talk to your housemates.

Useful links for further Advice & Guidance about university life including accommodation and money matters: -

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

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/>

<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice>