

## STUDENT LIFE - ACCOMODATION

Today, we're going to talk a little bit about accommodation. As with any experience in life (the pouring of time from an infinite jug into an infinite sink) every experience of university accommodation will be different. Here are some 'classics' which may or may not fit into your ideas of it.

### Living at Home

Many (many!) people choose to stay at home during their time at university. This means finding a local Higher Education provider and commuting in for your lectures, seminar and library time. *It's worth noting that your student finance will be adjusted for living at home, in the assumption that you'll be paying less rent/costs overall.*

#### Benefits:

- Potentially saving money on rent and bills.
- Less money borrowed means less to pay back (though if this is a concern I would direct you to our Student Finance week for more information!)

Security during a time of general upheaval - if you're anxious about starting university anyway, or feel like you're not ready to live away, that is absolutely fine! You need to do what is best for you.

### Student Halls

Usually you will move into halls in your first year and move out for second and third. However, people do stay in halls for their entire university course. Again, it's what suits you. Have a look at our worksheet for the day for links to a virtual accommodation tour.

#### Benefits:

- Independence (but not too much!).
- Halls will have residential advisors (students who have stayed in halls to look after new students)
- Security staff and if you've signed up for catered accommodation - chefs!
- You will also have your own room (it's not America, you won't share a 'dorm')
- Do your own washing (albeit in a communal space with people who know what they're doing to help you out)
- If you haven't gone for catered - cook for yourself!

## Student Housing

In second and third year, you might choose to move into student housing: Usually this is grouped together in areas with other students.

You'll have to deal with private landlords, read a contract and go full adult mode for at least the first month of living there. It can be a wonderful experience, freeing and fun.

Usually you will move in with people you know either from halls or from your course.

Top tip: you may feel pressured to start getting a house sorted immediately with people you've just met...Give it a month!

Everyone is in an environment where they want to feel safe and sorted, but maybe get to know each other properly first before signing up to a year of living with someone who leaves their frying pan on soak for 10 days.

Benefits:

- Independent living.
- Living with friends.
- It's your own house for a year which is really great, trust me.

## My Experience (Rupert from Shaping Futures)



*I moved from my small town in the West Midlands and to the bright lights of Liverpool. I lived in halls for the first year and, as I attended university a 'mature' student, I chose to live with other students of a similar age. I had a sink in my room but shared a shower and a toilet - which may seem off putting, but you get used to it dead quick and actually, it's not too bad.*

*In my second and third year I moved into private student housing. I moved in with friends off of my course and it only devolved into psychological warfare when one of us was feeling particularly cheeky. We cooked together, cleaned semi-regularly and got really into watching *The Chase* (starring TV's finest, Bradley Walsh). I'd recommend it to anyone who is able, you get a better sense of community in the city you live in, get used to some of the finer aspects of adult life (takeaways on a Friday, forgetting to put the recycling out) and get to have some real house pride in where you stay.*

If you have any questions, you can live chat a member of our team [here](#).

We'd love to know if you found this resource helpful, let us know [here](#).