

**Preparing to
go to
university**

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Accommodation

- Three different types
 - Halls of residence (most popular choice for first year students)
 - Private rented
 - Living at home
- Sent information once you have chosen your firm and insurance choice
- Housing usually wont be allocated until after results day



Halls of residence



- Advantages

- Great way to meet new people
- Rent includes bills
- Everyone is in the same position - lots of support and advice



- Disadvantages

- Not guaranteed at all universities
- Have to share facilities
- Can't choose who you live with

Private rented

- Advantages

- Can choose who you live with
- Variety of accommodation to choose from
- Flexibility to select the facilities that meet all your requirements

- Disadvantages

- Rent exclusive of bills
- May have to find your own property/area
- Contracts and legal issues to negotiate



Living at home



- Advantages

- Security/familiarity with area
- Support of your family
- Can be less expensive

- Disadvantages

- Less independence
- May be isolated from other students
- May miss out on some social events
- Entitled to less loan



Things to consider

- Is the accommodation guaranteed? (If not what are your alternatives?)
- How much is the security deposit?
- How many people will you be sharing facilities with?
- Are all the bills included in the price? (eg extra hidden costs for Internet connection)
- Is the accommodation mixed or single sex?
- How far is the accommodation from the campus?

Legal requirements



- Fire alarms/fire blankets in place
- Electrical goods PAT tested and well maintained
- Boilers/gas fires Corgi certified and well maintained
- Inventory of furniture and wear and tear documented
- Burglar alarm/security on doors and windows



What to organise/confirm

- Set up a student bank account
- Confirm accommodation
- Gather important documents (passport, birth certificate etc)
- Take information on your course and accommodation
- TV license?
- Your payment schedule letter (will be sent to your home address prior to starting university)

Essentials to take

- Student cook book
- Camera
- Cheque book and bank details
- Passport pictures (for bus pass, NUS cards etc)
- Street map
- Stationery
- Extension cable
- Items to personalise your room



Things to learn

- How to change a light bulb/fuse/plug
- How to work a washing machine
- How to read a clothing care label
- How to read a gas/electric meter
- How to cook basic recipes
- How to sew on a button
- How to budget! Do you know how much a tube of toothpaste is?!



When you arrive

- Get there early!
- Unpack, get comfy, personalise your room
- Take some food to bond with your new housemates over
- Prepare to answer lots of questions about yourself
- Go exploring with new friends
- Keep an open mind, new place, new people, new friendships!



Freshers' week



- Chance to familiarise yourself with departments, campus and location
- Register with your course and attend introductory talks
- Meet and interact with lots of new people
- Attend talks on personal safety, security and fire prevention
- Freshers' Fair – lots of freebies!
- Expect ups and downs – its normal!



Students' Union

- Run by students for students
- Organise various social events
- There to help you with any problems or concerns
- Great place to look for student discounts!
- Home to sports teams, societies, welfare, travel shop, print shops, student radio, student paper, learning support, library and IT support and more!



Top tips



- Be prepared and organised before you go
- Make the most of Freshers' week
- Meet as many new people as possible
- Don't forget your toothbrush
- Enjoy yourself!

