



## **Student Accommodation Options**

If you are aged 18 years and over and considering living independently whilst you study, there are many things to consider. Listed are a few things that you should think about to help you find student accommodation which meets all of your requirements:

### **1. Location:**

Is it important for you to stay near the College or are you willing to travel?  
Consider travel costs and travel time.

### **2. Lifestyle:**

Would you like to live with others or by yourself?

### **4. Commitment:**

Make sure that you not only choose an appropriate accommodation for yourself, but also give due consideration to who you would be willing to share it with, in case you choose shared accommodation.

### **3. Affordability:**

With many options available, budget proves to be a major factor in deciding the kind of accommodation you wish to choose for. If you are going to choose shared accommodation create a budget for how much you want to spend on rent between the people you are going to live with or set aside a budget for yourself.

### **5. Safety**

Safety should be a priority and therefore it is recommended that you check out the [UK Crime Stats](#) website before choosing where to live. Arrange home insurance for your contents.

Always let someone know your travel plans.

## **Various types of student accommodation available in the UK:**

### **House/flat share**

This is the most common type of private accommodation for students, where you can rent a property with friends. If you are considering this, then click on the following link [www.accommodationforstudents.com](http://www.accommodationforstudents.com) and enter 'Cheltenham' or 'Gloucester' depending where you will be residing.

#### **Advantages:**

1. You can live with your friends.
2. Rent is shared with other people/ friends which makes it affordable.

#### **Disadvantages:**

1. House/ flat shares are usually unfurnished.
2. You may be asked to pay a deposit as well as one month's rent in advance to secure the booking.

## **Room/ lodgings in a private house**

This is where you rent a room in a house where the owner currently lives. These lodgings offer a variety of flexible non-fixed term accommodation with the choice of self-catering, half-board or breakfast only option. Lodgings are generally good value for money and bills are inclusive of the accommodation fee.

- Advantages:**
1. Rent is often low.
  2. Spending time each day in conversation with the owner/ other lodgers will help to improve your English and learn about the British way of life and culture.

- Disadvantages:**
1. You will only occupy your bedroom and will be expected to share communal areas such as the kitchen and bathroom with the owner and other lodgers.
  2. You could be asked to leave by the owner without any given reason or notice.

## **Private flat/ house**

Living on your own can be very appealing as it allows you to have more independence but it is the most expensive accommodation option available as you are responsible for paying the rent as well as utility bills such as council tax, water, heating ,wifi and possibly council tax. Rental properties will require a guarantor to complete the tenancy agreement, who will need to be a resident in the UK and a deposit as well as 1 months' rent must be given in advance to secure the booking.

As a student you may qualify for a council tax discount if you are at college for 24 weeks for 21 hours per week in each academic year, be under 20 years old, have left home and be studying either, HNDs, HNCs or a Level 4 SVQs course for at least 12 hours a week for three months. If you are eligible for a council tax discount, you will be asked to complete an application form and supply your passport, visa and course details to support your application. For further information, click on the following links depending on whether or not you will be residing in Gloucester or Cheltenham:

Gloucester City Council:

<http://www.gloucester.gov.uk/resident/counciltax/Pages/discounts-and-exemptions.aspx>

Cheltenham Borough Council: [https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/29/council\\_tax\\_discounts\\_and\\_exemptions/1132/council\\_tax\\_discounts\\_and\\_exemptions/8](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/29/council_tax_discounts_and_exemptions/1132/council_tax_discounts_and_exemptions/8)

A tenancy agreement is a contract between you and your landlord but as an International student you will need a guarantor to counter-sign the tenancy agreement which outlines your rights and responsibilities as a tenant and a landlord, such as who's responsibility is it to carry out the maintenance on the property, information about the deposit fee and rent, notice period, etc. Both you and the guarantor will be subject to financial checks and you will be required to pay a deposit and one month's rent in advance.

Click on the following link <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/renter-advice/managing-your-tenancy/your-tenant-rights-and-responsibilities/> for further information.

- Advantages:**
1. Live independently within close proximity of the college.

2. You have the sole use of the kitchen, bathroom, living area and bedroom.
3. Cook your own meals.

**Disadvantages:**

1. You are responsible to pay the rent, utility bills such as council tax, heating and water, as well as buy food/toiletries, etc.
2. You may require a guarantor to complete the tenancy agreement as well as a deposit and one months' rent in advance to secure the booking. Please click on the following link <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/renter-advice/managing-your-tenancy/your-tenant-rights-and-responsibilities/> for further information: The link will answer any questions that you may have about managing your tenancy as well as your rights and responsibilities as a tenant.
3. You are responsible for the maintenance of the flat/house.
4. You are responsible to do your own washing and laundry.
5. You will have no-one to converse in English with or socialise with outside of college.

**Halls of residence**

Halls of residence is for students aged 18 years and over and is a great way to adjust to living away from home, and making new friends. The single rooms have en-suite bathrooms and are self-catering.

For further information, visit the student digs website:

<http://www.studentdigsgloucestershire.co.uk>

**Advantages:**

1. Any maintenance issues will be dealt with promptly.
2. You will live with other students which will give you an opportunity to converse in English, and to learn about the British culture and way of life as well as other cultures.
3. Live within close proximity of the college which saves time and money.
4. Accommodation fees are not very expensive.
5. Communal areas such as the kitchen and living room will be cleaned weekly. It is your responsibility to keep your own room clean and tidy.

**Disadvantages:**

6. You will be expected to share communal areas such as the kitchen and living room.
7. You will be expected to pay a deposit and one month's rent in advance before you can move in.

## **Homestay**

Gloucestershire College can arrange Homestay accommodation for you. Homestay is where you live with a family and are welcomed into their house and their lives. Homestay families will come in many forms for example they may be a married couple with a young family, or a retired lady living on her own. You will have to follow house rules so you are not completely independent. However, homestay is great value for money as meals and laundry are also included in the accommodation fee and it is a great way to learn about the British culture and to improve your English. Many homestay families will stay your lifelong friends!

Gloucestershire College would place all students under 18 in a host family.

- Advantages:**
1. Live with a homestay family.
  2. Spending time each day in conversation with the homestay family will help to improve your English and learn about the British way of life and culture.
  3. Option of single or shared rooms are available.
  4. Meals are also included in the homestay fee and are cooked at home.
  5. Laundry is also included in the homestay fee.

- Disadvantages:**
1. You may not be placed in a homestay near the college.
  2. You will be expected to share the communal areas with the homestay family.

For further information or if you would like to discuss the above options in more details please do not hesitate to contact the Accommodation team:

### **Gloucestershire College, Accommodation**

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