



# Student Guide for Accommodation

## Global Student Accommodation Guide

### Introduction

This guide provides essential information for students seeking accommodation across major study destinations including the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Ireland, and Canada.

### Types of Student Accommodation

#### On-Campus Housing

- University Halls/Dormitories: Rooms or shared apartments managed by universities
- Residence Halls: Typically include meal plans and are located on university grounds
- Benefits: Convenience, community atmosphere, easier integration
- Considerations: Limited availability, potential for less privacy, fixed meal schedules

#### Off-Campus Options

- Private Student Housing: Purpose-built accommodations with student-focused amenities
- Shared Apartments/Houses: Renting with other students to share costs
- Homestays: Living with a local family, often including meals
- Studio Apartments: Independent living, higher cost but more privacy

### Finding Accommodation

#### Research Timeline

- Begin 4-6 months before your course starts
- For on-campus housing, apply as soon as applications open
- Peak seasons: August-September, January-February in most countries

#### Key Resources

- University housing departments
- Student unions and international student offices
- Online platforms: Student.com, Uniplaces, SpareRoom
- Social media groups for international students
- University-specific housing forums

### Country-Specific Considerations

#### USA

- On-campus housing common for first-year students
- Housing costs vary dramatically by region (New York/California vs. Midwest)
- Many universities require first-year students to live on campus

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## UK

- University halls typically offered for first year ("Fresher's" accommodation)
- Private student housing market is well-developed
- HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation) common in university cities

## Australia & New Zealand

- Student villages and purpose-built accommodations prevalent
- Higher costs in cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland
- Some universities guarantee housing for international students

## Germany

- Studentenwerke (student services organizations) offer affordable housing
- WG (Wohngemeinschaft) shared apartments very popular
- Application processes begin very early due to high demand

## France

- CROUS residences offer subsidized student housing
- CAF housing assistance available to international students
- Private student residences (résidences étudiantes) growing in popularity

## Ireland

- Limited on-campus housing, high competition
- Digs (accommodation with a local family) common option
- Purpose-built student accommodation increasing in city centers

## Canada

- Residence halls common for first-year students
- Off-campus housing more affordable in smaller cities
- Some universities guarantee housing for international students

## Budgeting Tips

### Hidden Costs

- Security deposits (typically 1-2 months' rent)
- Utilities (heating, electricity, water, internet)
- Commuting costs if living further from campus
- Furnishing costs for unfurnished accommodations
- Insurance (contents/renters insurance)

### Money-Saving Strategies

- Consider locations outside city centers
- Increase roommate numbers to reduce individual costs
- Look for accommodations including utilities in rent
- Check eligibility for housing subsidies or scholarships
- Book early for better rates and wider selection

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## Legal Considerations

### Key Documents

- Rental contract/lease agreement
- Inventory list
- Proof of payment for deposits
- Insurance documentation

### Tenant Rights

- Research local tenant protection laws
- Most countries require proper notice periods for termination
- Deposits must be protected in deposit schemes in many countries
- Understand maintenance responsibilities

### Pre-Arrival Checklist

- Confirm accommodation before arrival if possible
- Arrange temporary accommodation if needed
- Understand payment methods and deadlines
- Prepare necessary documents (passport, visa, acceptance letter)
- Arrange transportation from airport to accommodation

### Cultural Tips

- Understand local etiquette for shared living
- Learn about recycling and waste disposal requirements
- Familiarize yourself with quiet hours and guest policies
- Research typical roommate expectations in your destination

### Emergency Resources

- University housing support services
- International student advisors
- Student unions
- Embassy or consulate services
- Local tenant advocacy organizations

### Additional Resources

- University-specific housing guides
- International student forums
- Government websites for foreign students
- Student accommodation rating platforms