POSTGRADUATE ACCOMMODATION GUIDE
2016 Entry
www.accom.ed.ac.uk
We understand how important accommodation is to new students and here at Edinburgh we recognise the need to provide an environment in which you can thrive. Moving to a new country or city should be exciting but it can be daunting too... we are committed to help you make that transition as easy as possible.

We aim to provide you with the best possible standards, range of options and value, and all our staff will work hard throughout your stay to deliver the appropriate levels of service and support. This leaflet contains essential information about the University-owned and managed accommodation available to you.
University accommodation offers...

- convenient locations
- comprehensive social, community and welfare networks from our Residence Life team
- mixed gender residences, though some individual flats are single sex
- laundry facilities
- secure cycle storage
- email and internet in each study bedroom
- personal contents insurance

Accommodation guarantee

The University of Edinburgh guarantees to provide an offer of accommodation to all new single postgraduate students who meet the criteria below. However, we cannot guarantee to provide everyone with precisely the type of accommodation they would wish. We do our best and find almost all students enjoy living in the accommodation they are offered but whatever preferences you select, you should note these are not choices.

We guarantee an offer of accommodation to:
- all new single postgraduate research (typically PhD) students, whether from the UK, EU or International;
- all new single postgraduate taught students from outside the EU only.

In all such cases, our guarantee applies as long as:
- your accommodation application is received by 31 July 2016; and
- you have an unconditional offer, which you must have firmly accepted, to study at the University by 31 July 2016; and
- you will be studying in Edinburgh for the whole of the academic year starting in September 2016; the vast majority of postgraduate places in University accommodation are let on 51 week contracts from September to September.

Taught postgraduates from within the EU, including the UK, are not currently guaranteed an offer of accommodation but are encouraged to apply anyway because we are committed to improving the availability of University accommodation and indeed we are currently developing new options, including the completion of our new Holyrood complex, which could provide an additional 500 postgraduate rooms; we would therefore strongly encourage you to submit an application. But, for the time being, the above rules relating to a guarantee for taught postgraduates from outside the EU only still apply, except where there are special or extenuating circumstances and these must be noted on your application.

You should note that applications for accommodation are currently expected to open from early February 2016 and all applications will be acknowledged. Offers of accommodation will normally be made from May 2016; if you are unsuccessful, you will still be offered advice on obtaining alternative accommodation in Edinburgh (see FAQs).

Please keep a look out for further information including changes to our guarantee on our website at www.accom.ed.ac.uk
What sort of accommodation is best for you?

Our postgraduate accommodation is based across a number of sites, typically located within a short walk or bus ride from the centre of Edinburgh; many are close to key University buildings and facilities (see map overleaf).

We are committed to the ongoing programme of development and refurbishment necessary to maintain the recognised high standards we offer. All our postgraduate accommodation is self-catered and all the necessary and appropriate kitchen facilities are available in all locations.

2016 sees the completion of our major Holyrood development, including a new concept in international postgraduate accommodation. The University believes the typical, more traditional cluster flat provision widely provided for students does not always meet the needs of those wanting a more collegiate experience; students from across the world often want to mix more widely in their accommodation as well as in the lecture theatre or laboratory.

The Residence Hall at Holyrood North features one fully integrated kitchen and dining space for all 480 residents. Eight specially designed kitchens each provide a hub for 60 residents, these in turn surrounding a shared dining area in one large open plan space at the very heart of the building. In use day and night, this innovative social space allows students from across the Hall to interact to an extent not possible in any other type of accommodation. A private dining room can also be booked for special occasions and events. On every bedroom floor there is a dedicated lounge linking with the lounge on an adjoining floor to provide one quiet and one active area and so extending engagement further. The bedrooms are all en-suite and each floor has small pantries providing some food storage facilities where light snacks and drinks can be prepared closer to the bedrooms.

More than that – on the ground floor, adjacent to the Holyrood Office, is a further social area which includes a large common room, quiet study room, a meeting/TV room and three sound-proof music practice rooms, one large enough for group rehearsals … completing a suite of fantastic facilities available to students in the Residence Hall and indeed to those residing in the circa 800 en-suite study bedrooms in the adjoining cluster flats at Holyrood North and Holyrood South.

But there are plenty of other options in terms of location and value around the city … Richmond Place accommodates around 275 students, predominantly in en-suite single rooms. Adjacent is Roxburgh Place with 58 single rooms in 12 person flats sharing comprehensive kitchen and bathroom facilities. Mylnes Court is an impressive building, situated at the top of the Royal Mile, offering 153 rooms, primarily in 3 – 5 bedroom flats. Ascham Court, with the majority of its 75 rooms in mews-style houses, is near the Meadows and extremely convenient to George Square. A new addition to our estate in Riego Street provides a good value option in either 4- or 5-roomed cluster flats with shared facilities.

We also have a range of flats in other large, purpose-built or converted blocks of accommodation housing between 75 and 123 students in single study bedrooms in flats typically varying in size from 4 to 10 people; including locations such as Blackwood Crescent, Causewayside, Ratcliffe Terrace and West Mains Road.

In addition to the shared flats above, the University has a number of conveniently located single-person studio apartments; these are completely self-contained, and the rents may not include utility bills, cleaning or access to our full Residence Life service.

Residence Life

Our properties are managed by professional Wardens, supported by specially trained Residents Assistants, who are usually students and live on site. Their core role is to build community and engender a sense of belonging for all our residents; as such, they are readily available to help address welfare issues and to organise and host a range of social and academic-related events … to create opportunities for you to try new things, meet new friends and experience different cultures.
Sharing rooms

There are some advantages to sharing a twin study bedroom... we make every effort to use larger rooms, we provide additional storage and study space, your rent is significantly reduced and you will benefit from having more immediate company and access to a larger network of potential friends. But you must understand such places are extremely limited so, and only if you are really interested in sharing a twin room, please think very carefully before you express a preference for doing so; if you do, we will do our very best to satisfy your request but cannot guarantee it.

Anticipated rents

The weekly rents below relate to single rooms in self-catered flats or residences for the 2015 – 2016 academic year and are for guidance only; you will receive actual details with your accommodation offer. £83 – £166 per week (51 week lease). University accommodation rents include all utility bills; personal contents insurance; internet facilities and support from the Residence Life team. Cleaning and housekeeping varies according to the location and type of accommodation offered but usually includes all common areas, staircases etc. within our premises.

A bedroom at Richmond Place

A kitchen at Ascham Court
Locations

1. Ascham Court
2. Blackwood Crescent/Causewayside
3. Holland Annexe
4. Holyrood
5. Morgan Court
6. Mylnes Court
7. Ratcliffe Terrace
8. Richmond Place
9. Riego Street
10. Roxburgh Place
11. West Mains Road

15 minutes walk
FAQs

How do I apply for accommodation?
Currently, accommodation applications must be made separately from any application to study at the University of Edinburgh, but this may change in the next year; further updates can always be found at www.accom.ed.ac.uk

When should I apply for accommodation?
Apply anytime from February 2016 onwards but certainly before 31 July 2016. Offers of accommodation are only issued to new postgraduates once their place of study at the University has been confirmed as unconditional.

Will I be offered my first preference?
Certain types of accommodation are extremely popular but we will do our best and mostly succeed. However, only students who require a particular type of accommodation due to special needs, such as medical grounds, are normally assured their first preference; if this applies to you, you must include full and clear details with your application for accommodation.

When will I get the result of my application?
We will acknowledge all applications on receipt. Offers of accommodation will typically be made from May 2016 but only once your place at the University has been confirmed as UF (Unconditional Firm).

How will I pay for my accommodation?
Rents are payable via a range of flexible options from which you can select at the point you accept your offer; these options include payment in full or by semester/monthly instalment plans using either direct debit or recurring credit card payments.

If I reject my offer of accommodation, will I get another?
Unless there are special circumstances we were unaware of when the original offer was made, we will be unable to make you another offer.

What if I don’t qualify for an offer?
We are not able to guarantee an offer of accommodation to those students who do not meet the criteria as laid down by the University; however, in such cases, you can still apply online and be placed on the waiting list. Please note, you may still need to find your own accommodation – one option is to visit the University’s online service at www.studenthomes.accom.ed.ac.uk or you can try www.studentpad.co.uk/edinburgh for general information and message boards.

What accommodation do you provide for couples and families?
The accommodation described in this guide is for single students only. The University does have a limited range of accommodation available for students with a partner and/or children but cannot guarantee an offer of accommodation to such applicants. We do, however, welcome applications for either couple or family accommodation; go to www.accom.ed.ac.uk for further information about availability and our application and allocation procedures.