



# ACCOMMODATION

## Homestay Accommodation and Halls of Residence

### Are you new to London? Do you have accommodation?

We can organise accommodation for you. We work with British Council Accredited agencies to provide students with quality homestay accommodation in neighbourhoods all around London.

Your hosts will treat you as a member of the household and will help you as you adjust to life in the UK.

### Are you under 18?

You must have a half board meal plan with your accommodation. That includes breakfast and dinner, although your parent/guardian may request a full board. Full board includes a packed lunch.

You will also have a curfew of 22:30, unless your parent/guardian requests an earlier curfew.

Accommodation includes arrangements for cleaning linen and laundry, at least once per week.

Under 18s will only be given keys to the home at the discretion of the host.

For more information on homestays, you can talk to our accommodation officer, Aneta, on the 1st floor. If you have any problem with your homestay or if you ever feel uncomfortable with your host or frequent visitors to the home, please contact Aneta immediately: [aczajka@ukenglish.org.uk](mailto:aczajka@ukenglish.org.uk)

### Are you over 18 and want to stay in homestay or halls of residence?

We work with several different student halls around London. They are all different, with different amenities, and are subject to availability. If you would like more information on halls of residence, please talk to Aneta: [aczajka@ukenglish.org.uk](mailto:aczajka@ukenglish.org.uk)

## Organising your own private accommodation

Many long-term students choose to rent privately. If you decide to rent privately, here are some things you need to know:

Do...	Don't...
...check out the Tube map to get an idea of the different zones, or <a href="http://www.tfl.gov.uk">www.tfl.gov.uk</a> to measure journey times.	... visit the property alone
...visit the property with a friend. Always stay safe	...make any payments or sign an agreement without visiting. Don't pay any fees for viewing the property of any admin fees to agents and landlords (house owners)
...check the place is real and the information is accurate	...move into a place without finding out about the area and your flatmates.
...find out the cost of the rent and any extra bills	...break the rules of your tenancy agreement.
... check if bills are included. If not, create a budget for your bills, including water, gas, electricity, internet and council tax	...be a bad flatmate!
...check if council tax is included in your rent. If not, check how much you will have to pay: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council">https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council</a>	...rely on junk food! Cooking is healthier and will save you money.
...ask for advice from our accommodations officer or from a welfare officer	... organise your own accommodation if you are under 18. It will be organised by your parent / guardian or UKCE.
... get a TV licence if you watch TV. People in the UK have to pay for a TV licence if they watch live TV or on BBC iplayer. <a href="https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one">https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one</a>	

### Questions to ask when viewing a room or flat:

- Who manages the property? Do you pay rent and report repairs to the landlord (the person who owns the house) or a managing agent? Is there an out of hours phone number for emergency repairs?
  - With how many people are you going to share a bathroom and kitchen facilities?
  - Are bills included? If not, how much could they be?
  - What furniture is included?
  - Ask the other tenants (other people renting a room in the house) if they know their neighbours and what their neighbours are like.
- \*If the landlord or agent has agreed to do or provide certain things by the start of the tenancy, you should get this in writing.

### NEXT STEPS – RENTING A PROPERTY:

If you decide that you want to rent a property, you will probably have to do the following:

- Pay a holding deposit
- Get references
- Sign a contract
- Pay a damage deposit
- Pay the first month in advance
- Move in!

If you have any questions, please contact our accommodation officer Aneta at [aczajka@ukenglish.org.uk](mailto:aczajka@ukenglish.org.uk) or go her office on the first floor.

If you have any questions or any problems with your accommodation, please contact our accommodation officer Aneta at [aczajka@ukenglish.org.uk](mailto:aczajka@ukenglish.org.uk) or go to reception on the first floor.

Don't worry if UKCE hasn't arranged your accommodation. Please come to see Aneta. She's here to help you.