This guide will help international students find out what it is like sharing living space with other students in University Residences. For advice on making your accommodation application, please read our brochure Accommodating Success 2015-16.

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ISAS

If British culture is different to your own, you may find planning for your move to Swansea a little frightening and stressful. This is where International Student Advisory Service is here to help you out.

How can ISAS help?

ISAS provides extensive information and advice for international students. They can help prepare for your move to the UK and provide continuous support and advice throughout your time in Swansea.

International student advisors

The university has enlisted the help of current international students to provide support to new ones. These International Student Ambassadors will be happy to answer questions about living and studying at Swansea. Visit the ISAS website for information on how to contact an ambassador from your country.

I’m very glad I live here and thankful to have had the opportunity to make some great friends

Sarah Nichols, UG Geography

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Online accommodation induction ....

.... this must be completed before your arrival in Swansea if you get a room in university accommodation as it forms as part of your acceptance. You will be prompted to complete it when you have accepted your room offer via your account. The induction gives important information regarding living in university residences and it ensures we meet our responsibility to inform you of essential health and safety procedures.

Arrival slot

A key part of the induction is booking your arrival day and time to let us know when you intend on coming. If we don’t know this information, you may not be able to move into your room, especially if you arrive late at night or outside our normal working hours. If you are arriving outside designated hours, your induction tells you how you can let us know.

REMEMBER

You MUST complete your induction before your arrival as it forms as part of your acceptance into accommodation.

The part I’ve enjoyed most about uni accommodation is sharing a flat with people you’ve never met and then becoming really close as if you’ve known them for years

Caroline Whittle, UG LLB Law
Sharing a home

Adjusting to sharing a home with people you don’t know can be difficult, especially if you are all from different backgrounds. You may find that you need to compromise at times for everyone to live happily together. Living in shared university accommodation does not suit everyone, particularly as there are certain rules and regulations that have to be followed for the university to comply with its duty of care. You should consider all these things before committing to a decision to live in shared residences.

Features of UK accommodation

• Mainly carpeting in every room except maybe bathrooms and kitchens
• Curtains rather than window shutters
• Toilets are used for flushing away toilet paper
• Rubbish bins are NOT used for toilet waste
• Water from kitchen taps are safe to drink so there’s no need to buy bottled water

Life as a resident

• Share cleaning duties in communal areas
• Be sensitive to your noise levels and tolerant of noise from others
• Respect people’s property and do not borrow items without their permission
• Be aware of security issues by locking entrance doors and window when going out

Most people enjoy living in university accommodation and make lifelong friends. In exceptional circumstances, it is possible to apply to transfer to alternative university accommodation but this is not guaranteed.
Choosing your accommodation

Which residence to choose?

Some residences will be more suitable than others and there are certain factors that you must take into consideration. We recommend that you think carefully about the following when choosing your accommodation.

How long is the tenancy?

Rooms are available for 40, 47 and 51 weeks. It is essential that you understand the conditions of your tenancy and the length of time you will be committed to paying for your accommodation.

- 40 week tenancy runs for the whole undergraduate academic year (Sept - June)
- 47 week tenancy is for healthcare students and students in university houses
- 51 week tenancy is for postgraduate students on longer length courses

Part-catered and self-catered accommodation

The key difference between the two is, with part-catered accommodation, you pay towards meals with your residence fees. A portion of your weekly rent (£25.50) is allocated to a meal card and with this you purchase food in any of the campus dining areas. This is approximately the equivalent of one main meal every day.

Single sex & alcohol free accommodation

Single sex and alcohol free accommodation is available on request at all residence sites. You must specify on your application if you would like to live in one of these areas.
What to expect

Single study rooms
These are rooms that are available for one student only. In Ty Beck House, there are a limited number of family flats for couples and students with their families. All other residences are single rooms.

Bedding & bedding packs
Bedding is not provided. You will need to provide your own bedding (duvet, blankets and pillows) and bed linen (sheets). E-mail us to purchase a bedding pack containing all the above and it will be in your room on arrival. A single bedding pack costs £25 and a double bedding pack costs £35. The cost can be added to your residence fees.

Bathrooms
En-suite rooms have a toilet, wash basin and shower in the study room. A standard room involves sharing a toilet, shower and/or bath with other students. Some standard rooms have wash basins in the study room.

Kitchen
Kitchens are fully equipped and have a table/seating area. You will need to provide cooking utensils and crockery.

Furniture
All rooms are fully furnished with a standard single bed, wardrobe, desk, chair and shelves. Single beds are UK standard size of 3” x 6”.

Internet & TV
All rooms have Wi-Fi*. Televisions are not provided in our residences.

*Excludes University House

Charlotte Wallen, UG Media & Communications

The best thing is the en-suite and the modern furniture. Also, the location on campus means it’s really central. It doesn’t take more than 2 minutes to get anywhere on campus.
Your accommodation commitment

Once you accept your accommodation you are committing to certain rules. The following points are very important and you must understand that in accepting your room you are bound by these conditions.

- You are committed to your room in residence for the whole period indicated on your tenancy
- You must speak to us if you are unhappy with your room
- If you move out without telling us, you will still have to pay your residence fees for the full length of your tenancy
- You must not commit to another tenancy before you have confirmation that you will be released from your university contract
- If you leave your room in residence to live in non-university accommodation, you will not be refunded fees you have paid for the time you lived in residence

Your tenancy and licence agreement

It is important that you understand the terms of your tenancy. E-mail us for a summary of the key points in Chinese, Arabic, French, German, Italian or Spanish.
When to apply

For the best chance of getting a room in residence, you must apply as early as possible. You can apply online from March. If you leave it until you get to Swansea, there may not be any rooms available. If you have problems applying, please contact us so we can help.

E-mail and your accommodation account

Once you apply, all accommodation communications will be via e-mail (you must provide a valid e-mail address) and your accommodation account (created when you apply online). You must check these regularly to see if you have been sent information that requires a response. Failure to respond may result in you not having any accommodation when you arrive.

Accepting your offer

Your accommodation offer is e-mailed and you must accept it within 7 days. If you do not accept your offer, your room may be cancelled. If you have not received information regarding your application, please contact us before you travel to the UK.

Reservation deposit

When you accept your accommodation, you must pay a reservation deposit - when you get your offer, you will get details of how much deposit you need to pay. This is then deducted from the last rent payment. If you do not pay this, your accommodation offer may be withdrawn, so please ensure you have paid this before you arrive.
Maximum deduction of £1000 from living costs

If you pay the university for accommodation before you enrol, you will only be able to deduct a maximum of £1000 from the living costs you need to show when applying for the visa, even if you pay more than £1000 to the university for accommodation.

How the deduction works

If you are coming to the university, you need to show you have held £7200 in the bank for one month before you apply for the visa. This is considered money to cover your living costs for one year. If you pay £1000 to the university for accommodation, you must show £6200 in your bank account. If you pay over £5000 to rent a family flat in Ty Beck House, you must still have £6200 left in your Bank Account to get the visa.

Think about what you can afford to pay

Therefore, when requesting and paying for university accommodation, think carefully about how much you can pay towards it whilst having enough left in your bank account for your visa. This information was correct as of April 2012.
Paying for your accommodation

How to pay your residence fees
You can pay your residence fees termly via a UK Bank Account or in advance for the whole year. Your fees include heating, electricity and water*.

* Excludes University Houses

How to pay termly via a bank account
If you have a British bank account, this is the easiest option:

1) Set up a British bank account
2) Complete a direct debit form - you will be prompted to do this when you accept your accommodation online
3) The direct debit automatically takes the correct fees from your account
4) Payment is taken on termly payment dates each term - details are provided with your accommodation offer on your licence agreement
5) Your licence agreement lists the termly fees

How to pay for the whole year
• If you are unable to get a British bank account, you must pay for the whole year
• You should pay this before you move in
• You can pay with a debit/credit card via telephone or set up a bank transfer

Charlotte Wallen, UG Media & Commucations

It’s a really nice family feel and it’s just so nice to have a night in watching a DVD in the kitchen, in the hallway or all of us piled into one bed.
Frequently asked questions

Where can I find out about University Residences?
Our brochure ‘Accommodating Success’ and accommodation website.

Am I guaranteed a room if I apply for accommodation?
You need to apply for accommodation by 30th June and meet the terms of your offer to study from the University to be guaranteed accommodation. However, we do not guarantee you will get your first choice of room.

What happens if I don’t pay my deposit before I arrive?
If you don’t pay your reservation deposit, your room will be cancelled and you will have no accommodation when you arrive.

Can I book a room when I arrive in Swansea?
No! There will be no rooms left if you try to arrange accommodation when you arrive. Please do not turn up at the University and hope to arrange your accommodation on arrival.

Who should I contact with accommodation enquiries?
If you have any questions regarding your accommodation before or after you arrive, please contact Residential Services.

Where can I find out about the University’s Meet and Greet Service?
Contact IDO (International Development Office) who organise the Meet and Great and provide support to international students.

When I first moved into halls I was naturally apprehensive like most people when they first move away from home, however the support and information via social media helped me settle quickly.

Aled Kowalski-Williams, UG Geography
# Checklist

- Received a copy of International Students: Accommodation Explained
- Received a copy of Accommodating Success
- Applied for your accommodation
- Accepted your accommodation offer online
- Paid your reservation deposit
- Set up payment method for your residence fees/paid your residence fees for the whole year
- Completed the online induction
- Indicated when you intend to arrive at Swansea on the induction
- Pre-ordered your bedding pack
- Visited the ISAS website for specific information for international students