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

Sarah Nichols, UG Geography

An international guide to Swansea University Residences
Residential Services
Accommodation Explained
This brochure will help international students find out what it’s like sharing living space with other students in University Residences. For help in making your accommodation application, please read our brochure Accommodating Success accessible via our website A-Z (see below).

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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
International Student Advisory Service ISAS

If British culture is different to your own then you may find planning for your move to Swansea a little stressful. This is where the International Student Advisory Service is able to help.

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 ongoing support and advice throughout your time in Swansea.

• VISA applications
• Preparing to leave home
• Financial matters and budgeting
• Bringing your family
• Getting here
• Swansea University Meet and Greet service (airport arrivals)
• International Welcome and Orientation Programme
• Local transport services
• Local shops, restaurants and entertainment

International student advisors
Swansea University has enlisted the help of current international students to provide support to new international students. These International Student Ambassadors will be happy to give you a student's perspective of the University and answer questions about living and studying at Swansea. Visit the ISAS website for information on how to contact an ambassador from your country.

isas@swansea.ac.uk
+44 (0)1792 602243
www.swansea.ac.uk/isas

There isn’t much “alone” time but that in itself is a good thing, there is no way of getting bored because there’s always someone else around.

Georgina Hughes, UG Business Management & Economics
Online accommodation induction

If you get a room in university accommodation, before arrival you must complete your online accommodation induction.

When do I complete the induction?

You will need to complete this before you come to Swansea as it forms part of your acceptance of your accommodation - you will be prompted to complete it when you have accepted your room offer via your accommodation account.

What information is in the induction?

The accommodation induction provide some important information about living in university residences. It also ensures we meet our responsibility to inform you of essential health and safety procedures. It will only take around 15 minutes to complete.

Arrival slot

A key part of the induction is that you will need to book your arrival day and time to indicate to us when you intend to arrive. If we don’t know when you’re coming, you may not be able to move into your room, especially if this is 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.

Further information

- Find out what category of student you are in our Accommodation Glossary
- Check what else you need to do once you’ve got your room offer
- Read about how you can set up payment for the year
- View our allocations information about how we prioritise and process accommodation applications
- Read our FAQ’s about getting your room offer
- Listen to our podcasts on the application process

Access our full range of resources: www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation/a-z
Sharing a home

It can be difficult to adjust to sharing a home with people you don’t know especially if you are all from different cultural backgrounds. You may need to compromise 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. Consider all these things before committing to live in residence.

Accommodation in the UK

- Most accommodation has carpets in every room except maybe bathrooms and kitchens
- We use curtains rather than window shutters
- Our toilets are used for flushing away toilet paper
- We do not use rubbish bins for toilet waste
- You don’t have to buy bottled water - water from the kitchen tap is safe to drink.

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 or food without permission.
- Be aware of security issues by locking entrance doors and windows when going out.

Most people enjoy living in university accommodation as a very positive experience and make lifelong friends.

If you are unhappy with your accommodation

In exceptional circumstances it is possible to apply to transfer to alternative university accommodation. You must come and see us and talk about your reasons for wanting to move. We do not guarantee that you will be able to transfer, as you will have to wait until a suitable room is available.

Lauren Muncey, UG History

“ I was really worried about having to share a bathroom with 6 other students but it’s fine and I’m glad I live in the Student Village. I enjoy being able to come home at the end of every day rather than being stuck at Uni the whole time.”

Access our full range of resources: www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation/a-z
Which residence to choose?
Some residences will be more suitable than others and there are certain factors that you must take into consideration. In addition, you may want to 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 (September to 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 is in 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 and 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.
It's the people at Beck House that make it the best. The highlight, I have to admit, is jumping from flat to flat to see everyone in a given night.

Sarah Smith, PG Study Abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence site</th>
<th>Hendrefoelan</th>
<th>Singleton Campus</th>
<th>Beck House</th>
<th>Local area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>Student Village</td>
<td>Caswell</td>
<td>Horton Langland Oxwich Penmaen Preseli</td>
<td>Cefn Bryn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenancy length</td>
<td>40, 47 &amp; 51</td>
<td>40 &amp; 51</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of residence</td>
<td>UG Designated PG area</td>
<td>UG Designated PG area</td>
<td>UG</td>
<td>PG &amp; families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Security staff</td>
<td>24 hour porters and security staff</td>
<td>Cameras</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Students arrange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>On campus</td>
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<td>2.5 miles</td>
</tr>
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<td>Price range</td>
<td>Low - mid</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High - premium</td>
<td>Mid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathroom in room</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Mixture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal area</td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>Kitchen &amp; common room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Each flat</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of area</td>
<td>Busy site with designated areas</td>
<td>PG, quiet and alcohol free areas</td>
<td>Busy site with designated quieter areas</td>
<td>Quiet area. Guest flat for visitors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access our full range of resources: www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation/a-z
Single study rooms
This means rooms are for one student only. In Beck House there are a limited number of family flats for couples and students with families. All other residences are single rooms.

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’.

Bedding and Bedding Packs
Bedding is not provided. You will need to provide your own bedding (duvet, blankets and pillows) and bed linen (sheets). Email 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.

Internet and TV
All rooms have wireless internet*. Televisions are not provided in our residences.

Bathrooms: en suite and standard rooms
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 study rooms.

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

*Excludes University Houses
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. Email us for a summary of the key points in Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, French, German, Italian or Spanish.

Further information

- Find out what category of student you are in our Accommodation Glossary
- Check what else you need to do once you’ve got your room offer
- Read about how you can set up payment for the year
- View our allocations information about how we prioritise and process accommodation applications
- Read our FAQ’s about getting your room offer
- Listen to our podcasts on the application process
When to apply for accommodation

For the best chance of getting a room in residence you must apply as early as possible. You can apply online for accommodation 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.

Email and your accommodation account

Once you apply all accommodation communications will be via email (you must provide a valid email address) and your accommodation account (created when 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 accommodation offer

Your accommodation offer is emailed and you must accept 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 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 your accommodation whilst having enough left in your bank account for your visa. This information was correct as of April 2012.

Gemma Bubb, UG English

I had a fantastic year, full of fun, and a brilliant experience of independence. Life as a student in the Village is made so easy, and it involved so much fun that I now feel like if I hadn’t lived in the village, I would have missed out on so much.

Visit the ISAS website for contact details and advice on immigration for new students
Take a look at ISAS’ handbook for international students
Get definitions of commonly used terms in our Accommodation Glossary
Contact a current student from your country
Read advice and support on immigration
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*.

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 - click here for instructions on how to pay by bank transfer

*Excludes University Houses

Further information

- Find out what category of student you are in our Accommodation Glossary
- Check what else you need to do once you’ve got your room offer
- Read about how you can set up payment for the year
- View our allocations information about how we prioritise and process accommodation applications
- Read our FAQ’s about getting your room offer
- Listen to our podcasts on the application process
Where can I find out about University Residences?

Our brochure ‘Accommodating Success’ and accommodation website contain complete information on our residences.

Am I guaranteed a room if I apply for accommodation?

You need to apply for accommodation by 30 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? Will I still have my room?

If you don’t pay your reservation deposit your room will be cancelled and you’ll 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. (Contact details on page 2)

Where can I find out about the University’s Meet and Greet Service?

Contact IDO (International Development Office) who organise the Meet and Greet and provide support to international students.

Further information

- Listen to our podcasts on the application process
- Take a virtual 360 tour of all our residences and check out photos on Flickr
- Read our FAQ’s
- Find out how you accept your accommodation offer
- Read accommodation information for parents & guardians
- Go to make an online accommodation application directly by clicking here

@ResidenServices

Access our full range of resources: www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation/a-z
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 ISAS website for specific information for international students

**Further information**

- Follow us on Twitter
- Like our Swansea University Residences facebook page
- View photos of residences on Flickr
- Check out our accommodation arrivals information to see what sort of things you might need to bring to University
- Access all our publications and brochures
- Watch our accommodation video

Samantha Thomas, UG Medical Genetics
It’s easy making friends with everyone you live with because you’re all in the same boat - overwhelmed, nervous and excited.

Matt Ebbs, UG English Literature & American Studies

Accommodation resources

A1 Accommodating Success
A2 Accommodation Explained

Further information

- All our publications are available on our website
- Access videos, 360 tours of rooms and kitchens, podcasts and photos from our website
- Plan for residence life, check out our preparing for arrival information
- Get answers to the most commonly asked questions with our range of FAQ’s covering all stages of your accommodation and university residences including applications, offers, fees, arrivals

Access our full range of resources: www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation/a-z