

Searching for student accommodation in UK (and elsewhere)

Name	Web Site Address	Main Markets	Apartments	Sharing	Provider fees	Ease of use	Comments
University Recommendations eg Halls	University website under accommodation	Worldwide	Y	Y	No	Very good	University will have halls of residence which are often competitively priced and many are on campus but some can be outside of campus. They can be a mix of dorm style, individual rooms to apartment.
Uniplaces	https://www.uniplaces.com/	UK, Europe	Y	Y	Higher service fee than others	Basic but good	Simple interface, fast communication with customer service, widespread usage. limited landlord interaction prior to arrival
AmberStudent	https://amberstudent.com/	Mostly UK	Y	Y	No fees	Very good	Strongly referred by previous clients, an aggregator for multiple student benefit services, free cancellation policy
Nestpick	https://www.nestpick.com/	UK, Europe	Y	Y	No fees	Very good	Furnished partments. You can't book directly with this website; rather, you'll be redirected to the website the accommodation is actually listed on
Homelike	https://www.thehomelike.com/	UK, Europe	Y	?	No fees	Very good	Homelike is an online booking platform for monthly rentals of furnished apartments. With 100,000+ apartments in 500+ cities, they cover both the European market and New York City! Also for people on the move who are in need of accommodation from one month onward, with flexible move in and move out dates
Roomi	https://roomiapp.com/	UK, Europe, Worldwide	Y	Y	No fees	Excellent	While it is only for those that don't mind sharing a flat (or room) with others, the amount of housing filters and opportunities to find people of similar mind eg vegetatian
Housing Anywhere	https://housinganywhere.com/	UK, Europe, Worldwide	Y	Maybe	Service fee to ensure scamless bank transfers	Good	It collaborates with over 130 universities, so they're pretty legit, and there are plenty of different accommodation options (rooms, studio apartments, etc
UniAcco	https://uniacco.com/	UK, Europe, US	Y	Y	No fees	Very good. Can also talk or whatsapp with consultant	Headquartered in India and having presence in the UK, US & Australia. Can ask consultant who can search accommodation meeting your criteria and provide a short list. With India and UK phone numbers. Contact name: Shlok S Gupta Assistant Manager (mention Shamir from Jito) UniAcco - Adventum Student Living Pvt. Ltd. +44 7480 609398 or +91 222 30221 00

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4Stay	https://4stay.com/	UK, Europe, Worldwide	Y	Y	No fees	Very good	An online marketplace connecting students and interns with local hosts, room providers, and roommates near their destination. Insurance guarantee, no deposit required, flexible cancellation options, different housing options, lots of legit business partnerships
National and local estate agents	https://www.rightmove.co.uk/ https://www.zoopla.co.uk/	UK	Y	Y-if organised by you to share	No fees	Very good	Many Landlords appoint estate agent to manage the letting process. This has the benefit it is a regulated by certain laws on the agents. Look for places to rent. Rightmove and Zoopla are national websites which aggregate listings from many agents across UK
Facebook groups	Indian students in UK, International students in UK, Indians in (London, Glasgow, manchester) students group	UK	Y	Y	No fees	have to use FB messages	Easy to use and can be a quick transaction. There is usually a local page for Apartments/Rooms to Rent in (Insert City name here) on Facebook. Warning: See if posts and person seem legit and check paperworks and pictures are real before paying any deposit.
JITO and other community boards.	JITO UK chapter	UK	Y	Y	No fees	Email or Whatsapp	Connect with JITO UK chapter and ask to join whatsapp group. Can post asks and also see if other Indian students are at the same college/Uni.

Some guidelines (from different websites). There are plenty of ways you can search for student accommodation in your university city; online student letting agents, local letting agents, property portals, and even gumtree. Even though there are lots of options out there, you should always check that they are signed up to a Government-backed Property Redress scheme such as the Property Ombudsman (TPO).

Whether you're searching alone or as part of a group, you need to make sure that you are able to pay a security deposit when booking a property. A deposit can range anywhere between the equivalent of four and six weeks rent and it will need to be paid prior to moving in. You should expect to pay the deposit not long after you have secured the property.

As a tenant, your tenancy agreement is something that you should pay special attention to. It will define everything from what you can and can't do, what your landlord expects from you, the length of your tenancy agreement and what is included within your rental agreement. It's a pretty big deal.

If you aren't up to speed with legal terms, then you should always get someone to check it for you. Alternatively, you can contact your university accommodation office or Student Union, who will be able to check over the tenancy agreement on your behalf and give advice.

What to look for in a tenancy agreement

- Check the start date and end date of your contract
- Check the rental amount and who is liable to pay it
- Check your obligations as a tenant and make sure you agree with the terms
- Make sure that your contract allows for 'general wear and tear'
- Check who is named on the contract:
- Booking a property as part of a group: If you are signing a 'Joint and Several Agreement,' all tenant names should be on the contract as well as the landlords
- Booking a property on your own: If you are signing an 'Individual Agreement,' your name should be on the contract as well as the landlords
- If you have a guarantor they may also be named on the agreement

It's a legal requirement for your deposit to be placed into a government-approved scheme. Therefore, you must check that your landlord or letting agent has lodged them into a Tenancy Deposit Protection Scheme.