
Accommodation

Finding short term accommodation

This factsheet provides information you should consider when looking for short term accommodation and also gives an overview of the places you can look.

Avoiding Fraud/Scams

Housing fraud is increasingly common in the UK. You must be wary of people pretending to be landlords in order to cheat tenants out of money. Please read our Renting Safely Factsheet for more information.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/media/docs/factsheets/renting-safely.pdf>

Personal safety

Always try to take someone with you when you go to view a property. If you have to go alone make sure someone knows where you are going, who you are meeting and when you will be back.

Never transfer money unless you are **100%** sure that the situation is authentic. If you are in any doubt, contact us for advice immediately.

Availability

It is difficult to find short-term privately rented accommodation for under 6 months in Bristol. The majority of student lets are for a year and mainstream professional lets are usually for at least 6 months. We would suggest that you need to start searching at least 2 weeks in advance of the start of your course, preferably 3 – 4 weeks.

Booking accommodation from overseas

We would generally advise you not to arrange long term private rented accommodation from overseas unless it is with an established source with a proven reputation. It is best to reserve a room in a youth hostel or local guesthouse while you look for suitable accommodation.

If you must book accommodation from abroad then you should use one of the larger

commercial housing providers, Bristol SU Lettings or an established agency, to be sure to avoid scams. If you are considering renting from elsewhere then contact the accommodation office for advice.

We would also advise not to bring your family until you have secured accommodation. There is an even bigger shortage of short-term accommodation for families.

Subletting

If you choose to sublet a room from a student, you should be sure to check first that the landlord is aware of and in agreement with the situation and also find out exactly what's happening with any deposit you pay. It's a good idea to ask for the terms of your agreement in writing.

Living with a resident landlord/landlady

These rooms are usually in family homes sharing facilities such as living room/bathroom/kitchen. This is often good value for money and also often more flexible with dates of the tenancy. Bristol SU Lettings advertise these types of tenancy.

Where to look

The University usually offers short term accommodation for University of Bristol students during the summer, check the Accommodation Office website <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/short-stay-accommodation/> which will advise on availability and how to apply.

It is worth contacting the Accommodation Office to enquire if we have vacancies at other times of year as well, especially around the beginning of the Spring term, i.e. the end of January.

Bristol SU Lettings offer limited short-term tenancies, mainly with resident landlords, advertised on their web site, www.bristolsulettings.co.uk

The UoB Bulletin Board is worth checking for rooms in student houses: www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/privately-rented/finding-privately-rented-accommodation/bulletin-board.html

Homestays

Often rented on a weekly or even daily basis, usually includes breakfast and sometimes evening meals on request. The hosts may provide a family environment and an opportunity for tenants to learn the language and experience a different culture. You may be able to negotiate lower prices for longer stays. www.hosts-international.com/out-of-london-2/bristol/

Short Term Accommodation for International Postgraduate Students

Hodgkin House- Reasonably priced single study bedrooms with shared facilities. Excellent location for the University. Will take bookings from seven days to one year. www.hodgkinhouse.org.uk

Where to stay while you're house hunting

List of hotels, guest houses and B&B's are available here:

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/accommodation>
<https://www.booking.com>

A list of hostels is available here:

www.hostelbookers.com/hostels/england/bristol/

Serviced rooms, B&B's etc

www.airbnb.co.uk
www.wimdu.co.uk
www.apartmentnetwork.co.uk/
www.situ.co.uk/bristol/serviced-apartments

Costs

Once you find accommodation you may be asked for a holding fee to reserve a property. You could also be asked for a deposit; usually a sum of around a month's rent and for a month's rent in advance. If you cannot provide a UK based guarantor, then you may be asked to pay the rent for the whole period up front. Housing Hand www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/privately-rented/finding-privately-rented-accommodation/guarantors/ may be able to act as guarantor.

You will need to ensure you have these funds available to secure accommodation.

The University of Bristol Accommodation Office runs a housing advice service for students, if you have any problems with your private rented accommodation, please contact us.

Due to Coronavirus our office on campus is closed but our services are available remotely. Please contact us by email and an adviser will get back to you: acom-office@bris.ac.uk

The contents of this fact sheet are for information only. You should consult the Accommodation Office or an advice centre such as the CAB before taking any action.