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.

Where to look

The University usually offers short term accommodation for students during the summer only, see
http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/summer-accommodation/

However it is always worth contacting the Accommodation Office to enquire if we have vacancies at other times of year, 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.bristolsuletttings.co.uk

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

The ESN Accommodation Facebook page can also often be a good source for short term accommodation:
www.facebook.com/groups/337165682970637/

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.

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.

Please ensure you read our Renting Safely factsheet, see Vhttp://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/media/docs/fa
tsheets/renting-safely.pdf and be 100% sure the landlord is genuine before sending or handing over any money. Contact us first if you have any doubts.

www.hosts-international.com/out-of-london-
2/bristol/
www.homestayfinder.com
www.homestaybooking.com
www.homestay.com/united-kingdom/bristol

Booking accommodation from overseas

We would strongly 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.

Short Term Accommodation for International Postgraduate Students

Hodgkin House - Reasonably priced self-catered single rooms with shared facilities. Excellent location for the university. Will take bookings from several days up to a year.

http://www.hodgkinhouse.net/

Where to stay while you’re house hunting

A list of guesthouses is available from the UoB website here:

www.bris.ac.uk/university/visit/stay.html

A list of hostels is available here:

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

Serviced rooms & apartments and B&B’s

www.airbnb.co.uk
www.wimdu.co.uk
www.hostroom.co.uk
www.room-b.co.uk/apartments?locations=113857
www.cliftonshortlets.com
www.apartmentnetwork.co.uk/

Costs

Once you find accommodation you may be asked for a holding fee to reserve a property. You will also be asked for a deposit; usually a sum of around a month’s rent and also 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.

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